OSWESTRY & BORDER
CHRONICLE

Thursday, December 29, 2011 www.oswestrychronicle.com Price when sold 45p mna media

INSIDE TODAY: **WINTER MEMORIES** 12-PAGES OF PICTURES AND NOSTALGIA

RECORD YEAR FOR BALLOON COMPANY

A WORLD famous Oswestry company is celebrating a record year having marked a production milestone in its output.

The team at Lindstrand Hot Air Balloons, based on the Maesbury Road industrial estate, has used more balloon fabric than ever before to create its balloons.

The rise in popularity of larger hot air balloons and baskets that can carry over 30 passengers has helped with the record 12 months. The factory team had used more than 10 million cubic feet of fabric in making hot air balloons to order, by October, which is a million cubic feet increase on the 2010 figures.

by Graham Breeze

"We're on track for 11 million by the end of the year," Managing Director Mr Simon Forse said.

"Despite the recession, orders from both the UK and Europe have been strong, and we have a particularly good market in Turkey, which is still a growth area for us."

Picturesque

Ballooning has become big business in the Cappodocia region of Turkey, know for its picturesque 'fairy chimneys' landscape. The naturally weathered rocks are best viewed from the sky.

"On average you can see up to 50-60 balloons flying each morning, creating a spectacular sight," Mr Forse said. "Lindstrand balloons are supplied to at least five balloon companies in the area."

Mr Forse said export had been very important this year. Balloons have gone out to not only Turkey but also Switzerland, France, Finland, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Israel, Finland and even Japan and Burma, as well as the UK.

"It has always been our policy to design and manufacture 'in house'. You will find almost every trade in our company, brought together in our workshop and a world-class textile-testing laboratory."

Brewery to bring a ray of sunshine for drinkers

A BREWERY in Oswestry is bringing a little sunshine to Shropshire from Down Under after creating a new beer.

Shane Parr, from Stone House Brewery, has created the recipe for the drink which uses hops from Australia. He said it is the first time in three years the company has introduced a new beer and it is going down well.

It is called Sunlander and has been named after a train that travels from Brisbane to Cairns in Australia. It has a low strength of 3.7 per cent and is very pale in colour.

It has been trialled in a number of pubs in Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

Mr Parr, who is the brewery's managing director, said: "It is the first time we have released a new beer in three years.

"It's really a summer beer as I thought that if we started experimenting now we would have something ready for summer.

"But we got really lucky and were happy with it after the first brew.

"The new recipe has been selling well throughout the area and we are keen to hear from people what they think about it."

Stonehouse Brewery opened in 2007, supplying pubs, hotels, and independent retailers throughout Shropshire and will still only supply cask beer to pubs within 30 miles of the brewery.

Tyres slashed near hospital

VANDALS slashed the tyres on cars belonging to members of staff at Welshpool Hospital over Christmas.

Workers found their cars had been targeted and residents in the town's Gungrog Road also woke on Christmas morning to find their tyres had been attacked. Anyone with information about the incidents can call police on 101.

Christmas baby joy for mums

Emma Greenway, 32, with baby Clarry Thomas.

AN OSWESTRY mother had a festive gift to remember when she gave birth on Christmas Day.

Seven mothers and fathers welcomed their little bundles of joy into the world on Christmas Day in Shropshire, and the last baby born at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital was a girl called Clarry Thomas to Emma Greenway, 32, of Oswestry.

The baby weighed 3.22 kilos (7.09lbs) and was delivered at 6.28pm.

Boxing Day treat on town streets

Sarah Hodgetts, Master of the Tanatside Hunt, leads the way through the streets of Welshpool on Boxing Day.

Crowds welcome a festive tradition

HUNDREDS OF people turned out in Welshpool to witness the traditional Boxing Day hunt.

Members of the Tanatside Hunt kept up the annual festive tradition alive by meeting at The Royal Oak Hotel on the cross.

Drinks were served to the huntsmen before the horses and hounds paraded up Broad Street.

Comments

Cheering spectators lined the town's streets as riders in their familiar red jackets took part in the annual spectacle.

The hunt took place in the aftermath of comments from Agriculture Minister Jim Paice who claimed that the Hunting Act, which banned hunting foxes with hounds, 'simply doesn't work'.

Mr Paice said: "I personally am in favour of hunting with dogs – and the coalition agreement clearly states that we will have a free vote on whether to repeal the act when there is time in the parliamentary calendar to do so."

Council to consider lifting ban on traffic

ANY changes to Oswestry's pedestrianised streets should only be done as part of a wider look at traffic flow, councillors have said.

Members of Oswestry Town Council's planning committee have agreed that any decision taken regarding Cross Street should also include discussion about nearby roads such as Salop Road, the junction of Middleton Road and Roft Street and the entrance and exit to the Central Car Park.

Councillors have agreed to ask Shropshire Council to look at the traffic management of Oswestry.

Councillor Cynthia Hawksley, mayor of Oswestry, said: "The part pedestrianisation of Cross Street cannot be taken in isolation. Any decisions should be taken after looking at the viewpoint of all the users of the town centre."

Oswestry's Chamber of Trade has been debating the the reopening of Cross Street after some traders said that its daytime closure is affecting the economic viability of the retail centre.

The chamber sent a letter and a copy of reponses that the it had received to Oswestry Town Council.

Several replies said Cross Street was not like a pedestrianised area but more like a street without cars. Some called for its daytime reopening, others for it to remain.

Appeal after bike stolen

AN OSWESTRY businessman is appealing for the return of his bike which he uses to deliver newspapers to customers around the town centre.

Mike Parry, from Lawrence Convenience Store in Church Street, is having to walk to deliver the papers after his Dawes green and silver gents bike was taken from outside the shop at about 6.20am on December 18.

NEWS

CONTENTS

Comment	8
Letters	9
Welshpool	10-11
Nostalgia special	15-26
Down your Street	27
Wildside	28
Women of Substance	29
Business	30
Markets	32
Drivetime	35
Sport	39-40

CONTACT US

News: Graham Breeze
Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Sports: Alex James
Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: sport@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Oswestry photographic
Tel: 01691 668094 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Welshpool photographic
Tel: 01938 553319 E-mail: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Advertising:

Alison Jukes
Tel: 01691 668090 E-mail: ajukes@shropshirestar.co.uk

Pauline Edwards
Tel: 01691 668092 E-mail: pedwards@shropshirestar.co.uk

Marcus Evans
Tel: 01691 668095 E-mail: marcusevans@shropshirestar

Welshpool Advertising:

Heidi Frost
Tel:01938 553349 E-mail: hfrost@shropshirestar

Distribution: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319537 E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE

14 Salop Road, Oswestry SY11 2NU
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm

www.oswestrychronicle.com

Road safety battle will carry on – vow

CAMPAIGNERS who recently secured the setting up of a speed camera on Gobowen's busiest road have vowed to keep the pressure on inconsiderate drivers in the village.

They have welcomed the introduction of a camera in St Martins Road – but say they also want a speed camera on Chirk Road which runs past the village school.

The camera was set up in St Martins Road because of the high level of concern in the community that many drivers were breaching the 30mph limit.

Ron Jones, chairman of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council, said similar fears had been expressed about motorists on Chirk Road, which runs past Gobowen Primary School.

He said: "I am pleased to see a camera van operating on St Martins Road, but people have also expressed concern about the speed of traffic on Chirk Road past the school.

"I hope we can get something done about that too.

"I don't see why we can't get one there too because there is a problem there and it is so close to the school.

Councillor Jones said positive steps had been taken to reduce road safety concerns in the village.

He said: "As well as the camera on St Martins Road we will be getting a crossing soon in the centre of the village.

"The people who got that organised should be commended.

"Although we are getting improvements, we will not give up and keep looking at how we can improve road safety."

Road safety bosses announced in October they were to site a speed camera in St Martins Road after a survey found nearly half of drivers ignored the 30mph limit.

It will be operational for at least six months.

Data will be collected during the six months to assess the impact of enforcement on speeds.

Biomass project in spotlight

A 'GUARDED welcome' has been given to plans for a state-of-the-art biomass plant by an Oswestry town councillor.

The small scale plant is planned on Kronospan's site at Chirk and the firm say the move would cut carbon emissions, create 12 new jobs and help safeguard the future of its 600 workers.

The company describes the proposed plant as 'eco friendly' and say it will be powered with residues from its wood panel operation and recycled wood.

Town councillor Barry Evans said he welcomed the prospect of job creation but said he wanted to be reassured it would not create any problems for the public.

He said: "I think at the moment I am giving the plans a guarded welcome.

"Obviously it is a huge employer and they have hundreds of local people from local families there. We don't want to do anything to harm employment and it is good that this will actually create jobs."

Bosses are now looking at the results of a public consultation held in Chirk.

Sarah marks 105th birthday

Sarah Williams from Llwyn Teg Residential Home celebrated her 105th birthday.

A GRANDMOTHER had extra reason to enjoy Christmas Eve – it was her 105th birthday

Sarah Williams, who lives at Llwyn Teg Residential Home, in Llanfyllin, celebrated the milestone with family at the home.

Over the years she has enjoyed a game of scrabble and loved doing the crossword in newspapers but her daughter Olwen Phillips, 78, from Oswestry, said her mother was now unable to write the answers down so she instead did it in her mind.

Mrs Phillips said: "She is as bright as a button and she loves Scrabble."

Mrs Williams has a son, a daughter and seven grandchildren and for most of her life lived in the village of Llanwddyn, near Lake Vyrnwy.

She loved to travel and when she was in her 80s she would fly over to Canada to visit her daughter.

Mrs Williams was born in Llanrhaeadr and went to the village school until she left at 14 and went to work on local farms.

She then moved to Llanwddyn to become a housekeeper for a farmer and met and married her husband, Idris, in 1932.

They had a smallholding in the village, where she has lived ever since.

Mr Williams died about 27 years ago.

Couple to sue cruise operator over virus

A COUPLE from Llanrhaeadr are among 134 people taking legal action against luxury cruise operator Fred Olsen.

The company is facing a massive legal action over claims holidaymakers picked up the deadly norovirus sickness bug on one of its ships.

Roy and Betty Hilton of Llanrhaeadr claim they were among 134 victims of nine outbreaks of the virus on the 880 passenger luxury cruise liner Boudicca between October 2009 and April 2010.

One claim is by a woman who says her husband died as a result. It is believed the case could potentially cost the company millions of pounds in compensation.

The claimants say they suffered a variety of symptoms which include nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhoea, wind, lethargy, fever, weight loss, and bloating, and some passengers still suffer from post infective irritable bowel syndrome.

The writ issued at the High Court in London accuses the cruise line of putting profits before the health and safety of its passengers. It says the company acted with view to commercial gain.

New date for concert

WELSHPOOL CHORAL Society will be performing their rescheduled Christmas concert, entitled Christmas Child, on January 8 in the Methodist Church in Welshpool.

The piece, composed by conductor Beryl Jones, weaves the Russian tale of Babuska into a modern narrative of love and generosity at christmas.

CSS CAR SALES
CHIRK & OSWESTRY
WE ARE HERE TO DEAL!

FORDS FORDS FORDS
Still under manufacturer's warranty

11	KA EDGE 1.2 AC, Electric Windows, choice of colours	POA
11	FIESTA EDGE 1.4 TDCi Diesel 5-dr. AC, Quickclear, choice of colours	POA
11	FOCUS ZETEC 1.6 TDCi Diesel (109) 5-dr. Bluetooth, choice of colours	POA
	All types of Fords available, please call for details	
08	CHEVROLET MATIZ Blue	SOLD
08	CITROEN C4 VTR 1.6 HDi Diesel Silver	£5395
08	PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 1.0	£4995
07	JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7 TD Auto. Moonstone Blue, Low Mileage, Dealer History	£16995
08	PEUGEOT 107 URBAN	SOLD
07	FORD FIESTA FUSION 1.4 ZETEC Durashift, Semi- Automatic, 19k	£5995
07	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 SPORT Silver	£5299
07	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Diesel. Red	£5675
56	VAUXHALL ASTRA VAN CDTi White, very clean, a lot of history	SOLD
56	NISSAN MICRA Grey	£4295
55	HONDA CRV 2.2 Diesel. Black	£7395
55	PEUGEOT 307 SXi 2.0 HDi Diesel. Bronze Met, Leather	£5395
54	FORD GALAXY Ghia Diesel	£4950
54	RENAULT GRANDE DYNAMIQUE 2.0 16v 7 seats. Low mileage	£3995
54	MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER Auto. Silver, dual fuel	£5395
04	CITROEN C2 FURIO Blue, Auto	£2995
04	MINI ONE CHILLI PACK Black, lots of history	£5295
53	NISSAN X TRAIL 2.2 Diesel. Blue	SOLD
53	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 White	£1500
53	PEUGEOT 206 HDi 1.4 Silver	£2795
03	FORD KA Black, 30k	SOLD
03	FORD KA Red, Choice of 2, low miles	£2195-£1995
03	ROVER 75 CONNOISSEUR Blue, Leather, DVD TV Sat Nav	£2995
03	CITROEN C5 1.8 Blue, superb throughout	£2750
03	CITROEN XSARA PICASSO	£2495
03	BMW 316 SALOON Silver	£3695
02	BMW 320 SE SALOON *MUST BE SEEN*	£3295
52	NISSAN MICRA Auto. Very clean	£2200
52	RENAULT SCENIC DCi Diesel	£2495
02	VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT TDi Grey Metallic	SOLD
51	VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE 1.8T Silver, Leather, Special Edition	£3995
W	BMW 530 SE Diesel. Leather, Auto	£3895
R	DISCOVERY 2.5 TDi 7 Seats	£1995
V	JAGUAR XK8 1 Owner, Low Mileage, Silver, must be seen	POA
1999	MINI COOPER Blue. Low Miles, Union Jack Roof	POA

Special Offer Interim Service inc. MOT £45 + VAT + Parts

MOT SPECIALISTS

DISCOUNT TYRE CENTRE

High Performance Specialist 4x4 and Winter Tyres

We will not be beaten on price

Chirk Service Station, Holyhead Road, Chirk, LL14 5NA
Tel: 01691 773428 or 07879 494480
CSS Oak Street, Oswestry, SY11 1LJ Tel: 01691 679139

Explore your world with
star extra TRAVEL

See us online at:
www.shropshirestar.com/starextratravel

UK trips, Europe by coach, air and Eurostar, plus holidays further afield.

Brought to you by Shropshire Star

Property - the key to finding your next home

Searching for a home has never been easier

Home of Property
connecting people with property

Brought to you by the Shropshire Star

School is to offer help for students

AN INDEPENDENT school in Shropshire is celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by offering six extra scholarships to gifted youngsters.

Oswestry School is awarding the scholarships to girls and boys who excel academically to mark Queen Elizabeth's 60 years on the throne.

The move will also celebrate more than 600 years of education at the school.

The Jubilee Scholarships supplement those which the school already gives to a number of pupils.

The scholarships will be worth up to 100 per cent of the school fees and will come into effect in 2012. The scholarship exams will be taken on February 4.

Headmaster Douglas Robb said the Jubilee Scholarships would apply both to boarders and day boys and girls and would be allocated equally to those entering at Year Seven, Year Nine and Year 12.

"We wanted to celebrate the school's 600-year history as well as the Queen's 60 years on the throne" said Mr Robb.

Parents who would like their children to be considered can call the school's registrar on (01691) 655711.

Plans in for car hire firm

A CAR HIRE firm is seeking permission to operate its business from a base in Oswestry.

Ethel's Car and Vehicle Hire Ltd has asked for retrospective planning permission to build an office and change the use of land on Mile Oak Industrial Estate for its business.

Shropshire Council hopes to determine the bid by February 13.

A miraculous recovery for tiny baby and his mother

HERE'S ONE Oswestry family's very own Christmas miracle – a chance to celebrate together at home after little Ryan Tookey and his mum had to fight for their lives.

Ryan had to battle for life after he was born 10 weeks premature, weighing in at just 2lb 9oz.

Doctors performed an emergency caesarian section on his mum Tina to save her baby's life, but then had to put her into a medically induced coma after she went into respiratory failure during the operation.

And it led to a worrying time for the family, who feared a family Christmas might not be possible as fears grew for the pair.

by Iain St John

But Tina, her husband Daniel, and seven-month-old Ryan have now enjoyed their first Christmas Day together as a family.

After suffering respiratory failure, Tina, 30, spent a week in the intensive care unit at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital before she was transferred to Glenfield Hospital in Leicester where she was kept alive by an ECMO machine – which does the work of the heart and lungs of seriously ill patients.

Tina said: "The next thing I remember was waking up in a hospital I didn't know, surrounded by people I didn't recognise and not having my baby with me.

Recovery

"I have since found out that my husband and our families were taken aside and told that I was unlikely to survive.

"I was devastated but determined to get better so that I could see my son. I worked hard at my recovery and seeing pictures of my tiny son spurred me on."

While Tina, from Maple Court, was battling for her life, Ryan was enduring his own fight at the intensive care unit at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Although Ryan was born on May 19 it was not until June 8 that his mother was able to see him.

And the anguish carried on for months because just as he was about to be discharged from hospital, Ryan was diagnosed with necrotising enterocolitis – a condition which causes part of the bowel to die.

He underwent an operation to remove the dead bowel at Birmingham Children's Hospital and was eventually discharged on December 9.

Tina, who has a 10-year-old daughter called Kelly, added: "We are just so thankful to everyone at the hospital and my mum and dad Sue and Dave Corke and neighbours Jenny and Richard Fardoe for all their help.

"We are just grateful we are all together."

The Tookey family from Oswestry with seven month old Ryan who will be home for Christmas after being in hospital since May due to him being born prematurely. With Ryan are left to right mum Tina, Kelly, 10, and dad Daniel.

Churchgoers cook meals for homeless

CHURCHGOERS in Oswestry sacrificed their traditional Christmas to make sure the homeless and lonely in the town didn't go hungry this year.

About 15 people from churches in the town volunteered to cook a three-course meal for those spending the festive day alone or without a roof over their heads.

Dmitri Sampson, from Christ Church, in Arthur Street, decided instead of sitting down to a large turkey dinner with family and friends he wanted to give free meals to those in need.

It is the first time the church has planned an event like this and Mr Sampson said he hoped it would be successful and become a permanent fixture each Christmas.

It was given the title Community Christmas and he said he was surprised at the number of people willing to give up their time to help out.

"It is fantastic," he said. "We have quite a few people supporting it.

"I thought a few people would help but we have had lots of volunteers and they are all ages too. I am happy with the response.

"The meal was for anybody on their own, who were elderly or homeless. I just thought it was something that a lot of people talk about but there doesn't seem to be a huge amount of things in the town for that."

Food bank helps hungry

OSWESTRY'S NEW food bank handed out 60 days worth of emergency food in its first three weeks.

Volunteers have supplied 130 kilos of food to help adults and children in the area.

Delays in getting benefits and low income have been blamed for the dire straits that people have found themselves in.

Phil Simpson, chairman of the Oswestry and Borders Food Bank, said: "We have been operating three weeks and we have supplied 60 days worth of emergency food, weighing 130 kilos in total. This has met the needs of nine adults and seven children, some of whom have needed more than one handout.

"The main reasons for needing this food have been benefit delays and low income."

The volunteers organised a bag pack at Sainsbury's which raised about £500 for the charity. The food bank is linked to the Christian organisation, the Trussell Trust and also works under the Churches Together in Oswestry and District group.

NEWS in brief

Chance to shape neighbourhood

A MEETING will be held in January to give people living in and around Oswestry the chance to help shape their neighbourhood.

The town has been chosen as one of the front runners to champion the Government's new neighbourhood planning ideas under the Localism Act.

The town council has been working closely with Shropshire Council to look at how neighbourhood planning can fit into the wider planning and policy agenda in the county.

Town council clerk David Preston said neighbourhood planning was a key focus of the new act.

"It offers communities a real voice in deciding the look and feel of development in their area," he said. "The aim is for local people to have their say on the location of new homes, the design of buildings, the shops they want to see in the High Street and the green spaces that should be protected."

The meeting will be held at the Wynnstay Hotel on January 10.

Public invited to go racing at ball

PEOPLE ARE invited to put their glad rags on and go to the races in Oswestry.

The Rotary Club of Oswestry is arranging an Ascot Ball to take place on January 12 at The Walls Restaurant, in Welsh Walls, from 7.30pm and will include a two-course meal with sets performed by Libby Gliksman.

For tickets call Jayne on 07983 480927.

Charity match

A CHARITY FOOTBALL match will be held in Chirk on Sunday featuring the Chirk AAA over-35s versus the under-35s. Kick-off is at 11am. Proceeds will go to the Nightingale House hospice.

ROGER EATON CARS

2007 07 DODGE CALIBER 2 0 CRD SPORT. IN BLACK, 40,000 MILES £5750
2002 52 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 16V DYNAMIQUE + CABRIOLET £3495
2005 55 BMW 530 TD M SPORT AUTO. 59,000 MILES, BLUE MET £11995
2004 54 MERCEDES SLK 200K. WITH AMG KIT, IN SILVER, NAV/LEATHER £13995
2007 57 VW JETTA 20 TDI SPORT. AIR/CON, ALLOYS, 45,000 MILES £8750
2002 VW GOLF EST. 46,000 MILES, SUNROOF, CD £3250
2008 LANDROVER,DISCOVERY 2.7 HSE. IN BLACK 82,000 MILES £19750
2009 59 MITSUBISHI L200 2 DR PICK UP 4 LIFE. HARD TOP, A/C ..... £10250 +VAT
2005 55 CITROEN PICASSO 1.6 HDI DESIRE. 42,000 MILES £4750
2007 07 FORD FOCUS CC 3. MRT BLUE, LEATHER, 37,000 MILES £8750
2008 57 TOYOTA AVENSIS 2.2 D4D TR EST. IN SILVER, SAT NAV, ALLOYS, 72,000 MILES £7995
2008 08 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 150 BHP ELITE 5-DR. IN SILVER £8495
2005 55 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 CON. IN BLACK, BLACK LEATHER £3995
2007 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI 5DR. A/C, ALLOYS, SUNROOF £5995
1999 V BMW Z3 1.8 SOFT TOP. PETROL, MANUAL, 91,000 MILES £3995
2006 06 ASTRA SRI 2LTR 200 BHP T. EXTERIOR PACK, 45,000 MILES £7495
2007 56 MAZDA MX 5 2.0i. IN BLACK, WITH BLACK LEATHER £6995
2004 04 VOLVO S40 1.9D. LEATHER, MANUAL, A/C, 74,000 ..... £3995
2003 03 BMW X5 3.0i. PETROL, IN BLACK LEATHER, AUTO £8495
2010 10 KIA RIO CRD 5DR. IN SILVER, 6,500 MILES £7795
2007 07 SKODA 1.2 12V 5DR FABIA. IN SILVER, AIR/CON ALLOYS £5995
2007 57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi. IN BLACK, 45,000 MILES £5995
2004 54 BMW X5 TD SPORT. MET GREY, 68,000 MILES, ACC, PAN ROOF £14750
2008 08 ASTRAVAN 1.3 CDTI. IN SILVER, 54,000 MILES ..... £4750 + VAT
2010 60 MINI FIRST. WITH TEC PK, 9,500 MILES, IN RED, CD £9495
2003 03 FREELANDER 1.8 KALAHARI 5DR. AIR/CON, ALLOYS £3750
2006 06 PEUGEOT 307 HDI 1.6 S. IN SILVER, AIR/CON, ALLOYS, 59,000 ..... £4950
2008 08 VOLVO V70 2.4 D SE. BLUE, BLACK LEATHER, 36,000 MILES £15750
2003 52 HONDA CIVIC CTDI 5 DOOR. MANUAL £3250
2007 57 AUDI A3 SE 2.0 TDI 170 BHP 5DR. 61,000 MILES, IN RED £8995
2008 08 JEEP GRANDE CHEROKEE 3.0 CRD LTD. 34,000 MILES, SAT NAV, REAR DVD, FULL LEATHER £14995
2008 08 DODGE NITRO DIESEL SXT. 23,000 MILES £10995
2001 Y BMW 525 SE AUTO. LEATHER, SILVER £1995
2004 54 VW GOLF GTI FSI 3DR. IN MET BLUE, 65,000 MILES £4750
2005 05 VOLVO XC90 SE 7 SEATS. IN BLACK, LPG, 80,000 MILES, S/H £10495
2002 52 MINI COOPER. IN BLACK, 64,000 MILES, HALF LEATHER £4245

Rockland Garage, Pant, Oswestry, Shropshire SY10 9QE
Telephone 01691 839555
Mobile 07843 339 465
E-mail: sales@rogereatoncars.com
www.rogereatoncars.com

NEW STORE IN SHREWSBURY NOW OPEN

COME AND SEE OUR FANTASTIC OPENING OFFERS!!!

www.tilemaze.com

NEW STORE
Vanguard Way
(next to recycling centre)
Battlefield,
Shrewsbury SY1 3TG
Tel: 01743 600440

TELFORD
Unit B1
Stafford Park 4
(150 yards past Fire Station)
Tel: 01952 299988

FASCIAS & GUTTERING
WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES

ASK US ABOUT OUR SPECIAL JANUARY & FEBRUARY DISCOUNTS
for FREE Upgrade to A Rated Windows on all orders

We Supply & Install Quality:
• Windows • Doors • Conservatories
• FREE no obligation written quote

t. 01691 680998

Visit us at:
Unit 12a, Maesbury Road,
Oswestry SY10 8HA.

Guide on new year events is planned

WELSHPOOL TOWN Council is pulling together a what's on guide for 2012 with an appeal for organisations, clubs and charities to get in touch with their events.

The town council said it would also be extending the invitation for events being held on the outskirts of the town.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said that he hoped the book would boost the town's trade and tourism.

He said: "It won't cost anything to be listed and the guide will be distributed to outlets across the town including restaurants, cafes, bed and breakfasts, and caravan parks.

"It's a chance for various clubs and organisations to promote themselves in the town and invited people to join them.

"We're hoping as many people as possible will get in touch with us to help contribute," he said.

He added that organisations, clubs and charities wanting to appear in the guide should get in touch by mid January.

For more information on the guide call the town clerk's office on (01938) 553142 or e-mail *wtcouncil@btinternet.com*

Family tells of grief over grandmother's killing

THE family of a woman who was stabbed to death by her ex-partner at their Oswestry home have said their lives would never be the same.

Former soldier Brian Woodman was sentenced to 12 years in jail last Thursday. The 59 year old admitted the manslaughter of Jill Nevitt on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The grieving family of 45-year-old Mrs Nevitt, who was killed just days before Christmas last year, have said the festive season "will never be the same".

by Iain St John

Stafford Crown Court was told Woodmass carried out a frenzied attack on his former partner at the home they had shared in Orchard Street, Oswestry, on December 14 last year.

The former soldier used two knives to stab Mrs Nevitt 28 times, causing 16 substantial wounds to her chest, neck, back and abdomen. The court heard victim impact statements from Mrs Nevitt's three daughters and was told the grandmother, who worked at Poundstretchers in Oswestry, particularly loved Christmas.

Her daughter Becqui said: "My mum was my best friend, my rock, my shoulder to cry on. She was a wonderful woman who lived for her children and her grandchildren. I am just waiting to wake up from this nightmare.

"Christmas is not the same, it never will be. Mum was the soul of this family."

Daughter Donna said: "I still can't believe this has happened. My body is numb."

And daughter Nikki said in her statement she felt "cheated" that Woodmass had taken away their mother.

Mr Rob Edwards, prosecuting, yesterday told Stafford Crown Court Woodmass left the house and later returned, placed a duvet on Mrs Nevitt's body, took tablets and prepared a noose to kill himself. He called police to tell them what he had done but before he could kill himself officers arrived at the address.

Mr Mark Wall, for Woodmass, said his client suffered from post traumatic stress from army service in the 1960s and 1970s.

Jailed – former soldier Brian Woodmass.

Killed at home – victim Jill Nevitt.

Police at the scene in Orchard Street where Jill Nevitt was killed.

Cyclists on ride in town

A BID TO turn Oswestry into a town for cyclists will be launched today, with a Turkey Sandwich Ride by the new group Vel-Os.

The leisurely ride for all ages and abilities will start at 10am from the Station in Oswald Road, Oswestry. One of the organisers, Tim Rutherford, said: "We hope people will dust off their bicycles, get away from the kitchen and the sales, bring gran and the kids, and join us for a 12-mile loop, around Oswestry's secret lanes.

"The route is all flat and riders will never be further than six miles from town. They can buy tea and cakes at Canal Central which is the nine mile point," he said

"There is no need for lycra, but no ban either, and no-one will be left behind. People can even decorate their bicycles. We intend this to be the start of a series of similar rides."

NEWS in brief

Cash help centre to open in town

A NEW ADVICE centre for people with money or debt worries is to open in north Shropshire after a similar one in Oswestry proved a great success.

The Jubilee Money Advice (JMA) centre was set up in 2010 and runs from the Kingswell Centre in Arthur Street.

It is a voluntary organisation which helps people in the area with debt fears.

Members of JMA were recently approached by Reverend Karen Davies wanting to set up a centre in Criftins to cover areas including Welsh Frankton.

The centre will be based at the meeting point in Criftins' St Matthews' Church and plans to open in the spring once volunteer training is complete.

Liz Evans, from the advice centre in Oswestry, said: "We were wanting to spread the service out to the districts and other areas because some people can't travel to Oswestry."

Barn destroyed in Christmas fire

A BARN was destroyed in a fire near Oswestry after the alarm was raised at 1.20pm on Christmas Day.

The blaze was discovered in the farm building close to the A5 near Gobowen. Two fire crews from Oswestry went to the scene with crews bringing the fire under control in an hour.

Maestermyn Marine Ltd
Covering Shropshire, Staffordshire, Cheshire and Mid Wales
ALL TYPES OF BOAT REPAIRS UNDERTAKEN
Breakdown Service
• All Makes of Inboard and Outboard Engine Serviced/Repaired by our Mobile Engineers
• New and Used Engine Sales
• Dry Dock Available For Blacking, Painting, Welding etc
• Well Stocked Chandlery
• Now Mobile Fuel Polishing
HONDA MARINE Authorised Dealer
safe Installations & Testing
Ellesmere Road, Whittington, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4NU
FOR A FREE QUOTE CONTACT: 01691 662 424
email: enquiries@maestermyn.co.uk

Page on Facebook in son's memory

AN INTERNET networking site has been set up to support parents of children with special needs in memory of a 10-year-old boy from the Shropshire border.

Daniel McHugh Hughes died on New Year's Eve four years ago, having spent his last Christmas at Alder Hey Children's Hospital. He suffered from Patau Syndrome.

Now his mother, Lesley, has created a page on Facebook and is building a web page to help people connected with special needs and all kind of disability.

"This group is for parents, carers, family and friends anyone connected with special people, including special people themselves," she said.

"It is also for any parents, like myself, who have sadly lost their loved ones. I am hoping this group will be able to offer help, advice, tips, links and ideas to others who are struggling to cope."

Daniel's condition baffled doctors who initially gave him no hope of survival when he was born. He attended his local school at Llangedwyn before moving to Ysgol Cedewain School at Newtown

More details can be found on In Memory Of Daniel (McHugh) Worldwide Special Needs Connection Group on the Facebook site.

Branch raises £19,000 for Legion Poppy Appeal

THE PEOPLE of Oswestry raised more than £19,000 for the Poppy Appeal this year, it has been revealed.

Organisers say residents in the town and surrounding villages responded 'superbly' to the appeal organised by the Royal British Legion.

by Sue Austin

Volunteers, both members and non members, delivered boxes of poppies and collecting tins to businesses in and around Oswestry and then collected them in.

Collectors also stood in the foyers of Oswestry's Sainsbury's store and on two days on the streets of the town.

Army cadets collected in the Morrisons supermarket and added their help to the campaigns.

Norman Morris, spokesman for the Poppy Appeal in Oswestry, said: "Their efforts were rewarded by a wonderful response from the public, despite the present economic conditions."

"Shops, schools, petrol stations and hostelries in the areas of Gobowen, Whittington, Gledrid, Moreton, Weston Rhyn, St Martins, Morda, Trefonen, Maesbury, Llynclys, Pant and Llanyblowell as well as the town itself all helped to make the appeal a success."

He said the task would have been impossible without the efforts of all those volunteers who delivered and collected bosses and those to stood on the streets and at the supermarkets.

"Their job was made easier by the magnificent response by the public. We also appreciate the kindness of the business community in agreeing to have a box and collecting tin on their counters while the Oswestrian pub provided accommodation for the proceeds to be counted."

He said as a result of the efforts £19,610 had been banked to date.

"All this money will be used by the legion to provide help for both present and former ex-servicemen and women and their families who are in need," he said. "This help is provided for as long as is necessary."

The appeal will carry on until September 20ar.

In the summer the Oswestry branch of the Legion will hold a family event in Cae Glas Park, details to be released.

Youngsters take part in ballet workshop

Pictured taking part in a ballet workshop run by The Ballet Pod are Nicole Harrison, nine, Robin Welti, seven, Ann Wall, 16, Poppy Stephens, seven and Daisy Davis, eight. The workshop was held at St Mary's Church Hall, Chirk. Former Royal ballet dancer Richard Slaughter and his company of dancers spent the day teaching youngsters dances from the Tchaikovsky ballet Sleeping Beauty. Family and friends were invited to watch the final performance at the end of the workshop. For more information visit theballetpod@aol.com

NEWS in brief

Groups invited to play a local role

VOLUNTARY and community groups in Oswestry will find out at a meeting in 2012 how they can play a role in David Cameron's localism agenda.

What localism means to the town will be at the heart of the next meeting of the Oswestry Local Joint Committee on February 16.

In addition to members of the public, representatives from groups across the town and wider area are being specially invited to hear about changes in council services which are being driven by the Localism Act and the reform of public services.

The meeting will be held at the Eastern Oswestry Community Centre starting at 7pm.

Local voluntary groups and associations are reminded that the local joint committee has funding to support and enhance the community.

For more details call (01743) 253077.

New councillors to serve parish

TWO NEW councillors have joined a parish council which represents villagers around Oswestry.

Gareth Thomas and Steve West-Wynn have joined Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council.

Parish council chairman Ron Jones welcomed the new councillors.

H. Ballard & Son (Motors)

Union Street & Brook Street, Welshpool
Telephone 01938 553152/552298
KIA AND RENAULT SPECIALISTS
THE PEOPLE THAT CARE MORE
TOWBAR FITTING CENTRE
VIEW CURRENT STOCK AT
WWW.BALLARDMOTORS.CO.UK
SALES SERVICE+QUALITY=RELIABILITY
IF THE VEHICLE YOU REQUIRE IS NOT LISTED TRY OUR UNIQUE SOURCING SYSTEM
FREE AIR CONDITIONING CHECK BY APPOINTMENT

Diesel Selection

09 (09) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN 18,000 miles...£9,250
08 (58) VW GOLF 1.9 TDiS 5-dr. Black...DUE IN
08 (08) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.3 CDTi CLUB Blue...£7,250
08 (08) FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCi ZETEC Sea Grey, 7,000 miles...£9,750
08 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTi DESIGN Silver...DUE IN
08 (08) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTi SXi 3-d...£8,650
07 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi SXi 5-dr. Black...£8,450
07 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi 5-dr. Blue, Immaculate. £30 Road Tax...£7650
07 (07) PEUGEOT 307 HDi Estate, Red...£8,250
07 (07) RENAULT SCENIC 1.9 DCi DYNAMIQUE Black...£6,450
07 (56) KIA CEED LS CRDi 5-dr. 9,000 miles...£8,750
07 (56) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF 1.9 TDi MATCH Ink Blue...£7,650
06 (56) KIA CEED LS CRDi 5-dr. 9000miles...£8,750
06 (06) FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi Tonic Blue, £30 road tax...£6,250
05 (55) FORD TRANSIT CONNECT SWB White...DUE IN
04 (04) ROVER 45 TDiXL 5-dr. Blue...£2,650
04 (04) FORD FOCUS C-MAX TDCi Ink Blue...£4,950
03 (53) ROVER 45 TD IMPRESSION S 5 -dr...£1,950
03 (03) ROVER 25 TDiL 5-door, Silver...£2,250

Petrol Selection

11 (60) NEW VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE Automatic...£10,750
10 (10) NEW VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 Turbo, Black...£12,450
10 (10) NEW RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE Tom Tom, 6,000 miles...£10,750
10 (10) TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 VVTi TR 5-dr. Black, 7,000 miles...£9,250
10 (10) NEW ASTRA 1.6 SRi Technical Grey...£11,950
09 (59) KIA PICANTO 1.1 STRIKE Scarlet Red...£6,750
09 (59) SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SE 5-dr. Pale Blue, 7,000 miles...£7,950
09 (09) KIA PICANTO 1.1 CHILL Cool Blue...£5,950
09 (09) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 LIFE Altra Blue...£8,950
08 (58) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 DESIGN Technical Grey...£7,850
08 (58) PEUGEOT 308S VTi Black...DUE IN
08 (58) KIA PICANTO 2 Automatic, Diamond Blue...£5,950
08 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB 3-dr. Black...£6,850
08 (08) TOYOTA YARIS 1.0 VVTi 5-dr. 8,000 miles...£6,950
07 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5-dr...£6,950
07 (07) FORD KA 70 STYLE Silver...£5,250
06 (56) PEUGEOT 207 SE 16v 5-dr. Silver Grey 9,000 miles...£7,450
06 (56) RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE...£6,950
06 (06) TOYOTA AYGO 1.0 VVTi+ 5-dr. Pale Blue...£3,950
06 (06) CITROEN C1 RHYTHM 5-dr. Road Tax £20...£5,750
06 (06) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5-dr...£3,750
05 (55) FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 5-dr. Silver...£4,250
05 (05) SEAT IBIZA 1.4 SPORT 3-dr. Silver...£3,250
04 (04) AUDI A3 2.0 FSi SPORT Red...£6,850
04 (04) PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 3-door. Black...£2,750
03 (03) ROVER 75 1.8 CLUB SE Silver...£4,750
04 (54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE...DUE IN
03 (03) FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX 5-dr...£3,850
02 (52) MG ZS 1.8 1,204 miles, 120+, Trophy Blue...£5,995
02 (52) ROVER 45 SPIRIT 5 5-dr...£2,650
02 (02) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 COMFORT Blue...£2,650
02 (02) MG ZS 120+ 5-dr. Silver...£2,675
00 (W) HONDA CIVIC Sport 3-dr...£1,750

4x4 Selection

09 (59) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS. Black...£13,750
08 (58) KIA SPORTAGE 2.0 CRDi XS 4WD. Silver...£12,950
07 (07) SUZUKI JIMNY JLX+ Black/Silver...£6,950
06 (56) SUBARU IMPREZA 1.5R Red, 30,000 miles...£5,950
06 (56) LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 SPORT. Red...£10,950
06 (06) SUZUKI JIMNY JLX. Gold 37,000 miles...£6,750
05 (55) SUZUKI GRAND VITARA VVT SPORT Silver...£6,750
04 (54) LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4 SE...£8,750

NEW IN
Introducing
THE ALL NEW
MG6 GT SE
Come & See
For Yourself -
Test Drive Available

NEED MORE SPACE OR AN EXTRA ROOM?

Elizabethan Patio Doors
CONSERVATORIES FULLY BUILT FROM JUST £3,495

AMAZING OFFERS ON
'ENERGY EFFICIENT' WINDOWS
UP TO £2000 WINDOW SCRAPPAGE SCHEME

- FAMILY OWNED AND RUN BUSINESS ESTABLISHED SINCE 1984
- WE MANUFACTURE ALL OUR OWN PRODUCTS
- HIGH QUALITY EUROCELL FRAMES
- EXPERIENCED INSTALLERS
- NO DEPOSIT OR STAGE PAYMENTS
- UNIQUE 'FEATURE BEAM' ROOF SYSTEM

eurocell

TEL: 01978 752020
FACTORY & SHOWROOM (OPEN 7 DAYS)
MOLD ROAD, GWERSYLLT, WREXHAM, LL11 4AF

JAN SALE OFFERS

STARTS 10AM BOXING DAY

Free 5 Year Warranty with all Bravia TVs

Internet Video Freeview HD BBC iPlayer YouTube

22" BRAVIA LCD KDL-22EX320B
ONLY £259.99 was £299.99

was £349.99
24" MODEL .....ONLY £299.99

was £399.99
26" MODEL .....ONLY £349.99

Free 5 Year Warranty

Free 5 Year Warranty

Internet Video Freeview HD BBC iPlayer YouTube

32" FULL HD1080 BRAVIA LCD WITH BUILT IN FREEVIEW KDL-32CX523BU
ONLY £379.99 was £549.99

32" FULL 3D HD1080 WITH DYNAMIC EDGE KDL-32EX723BU
ONLY £499.99 was £749.99

40" FULL HD1080 WITH USB PLAYBACK KDL-40BX320
ONLY £379.99 was £649.99

40" FULL HD1080 WITH USB PLAYBACK KDL-40CX523BU
ONLY £449.99 was £699.99

40" 200Hz FULL HD 3D LED WITH WI-FI & INTERNET VIDEO KDL-40EX724BU
ONLY £649.99 was £1,099.99

40" 400Hz FULL HD 3D LED WITH WI-FI & INTERNET VIDEO KDL-40HX723BU
ONLY £699.99 was £1,399.99

46" 200Hz FULL HD 3D LED WITH WI-FI & INTERNET VIDEO KDL-46EX724BU
ONLY £899.99 was £1,449.99

46" 400Hz FULL HD 3D LED WITH WI-FI & INTERNET VIDEO KDL-46HX823BU
ONLY £999.99 was £1,999.99

46" 800Hz FULL HD 3D LED WITH WI-FI & INTERNET VIDEO KDL-46HX923BU
ONLY £1,599.99 was £2,499.99

55" 800Hz FULL HD 3D LED WITH WI-FI & INTERNET VIDEO KDL-55HX923BU
ONLY £2,399.99 was £2,999.99

55" 200Hz FULL HD 3D LED WITH WI-FI & INTERNET VIDEO KDL-55EX723
ONLY £1,149.99 was £1,999.99

BLU-RAY DISC / DVD PLAYER BDP-S185
ONLY £69.99 was £99.99

3D BLU-RAY DISC / DVD PLAYER BDP-S480
ONLY £119.99 was £169.99

2.1CH 3D BLU-RAY DISC / DVD HOME CINEMA BDV-L600
ONLY £329.99 was £499.99

5.1CH 3D BLU-RAY DISC / DVD HOME CINEMA BDV-E380
ONLY £299.99 was £449.99

UPGRADE TO WIRELESS REAR SPEAKERS FOR ONLY £99

MICRO Hi-Fi IPOD DOCK WITH DAB AND CD PLAYER CMT-MX550
ONLY £199.99 was £249.99

12.1MP COMPACT CAMERA DSC-W510
ONLY £69.99 was £99.99

DSC-W520 MODEL ONLY £79.99

DSC-W530 MODEL ONLY £89.99

INTERCHANGEABLE LENS DIGITAL CAMERA NEX-5NKB
ONLY £479.99 was £599.99

LATEST MODEL!

16GB SONY TABLET S SGPT-111GB
ONLY £329.99 was £399.99

VAIO 4GB RAM, 500GB HDD AND INTEL CORE i5 VPC-EH2N1E
ONLY £499.99 was £699.99

VAIO 4GB RAM, 500GB HDD AND INTEL CORE i3 VPC-EH2N1EB
ONLY £449.99 was £549.99

160-162 Corporation Street
BIRMINGHAM | 0121 236 0679

Weaver's Wharf (50mtrs from TK Maxx)
KIDDERMINSTER | 01562 827 100

Three Spires Shopping Centre
LICHFIELD | 01543 415 486

12 Castle Street (Adjacent to M&S)
SHREWSBURY | 01743 366 160

Sony Centre

Instore, online. Collection or delivery.

53 Mill Lane
SOLIHULL | 0121 711 4145

7-8 Mill Street
STAFFORD | 01785 222 788

Gracechurch Shopping Centre (opp. Argos)
SUTTON COLDFIELD | 0121 354 9646

www.sony.co.uk

A division of Victor Electronics Ltd.

NEWS

01691 668094

Windows smashed at town nightclub

THREE WINDOWS were smashed by a hooded man with a sledgehammer during an early morning attack on an Oswestry nightclub.

Damage amounting to £600 was caused to the front of Desire nightclub in Cross Street.

Police are appealing for information about the incident and have released a description of the suspect. They say he is about five feet six inches tall and was wearing a hooded top and a face scarf, a black fleece and black trousers, and white trainers and gloves.

After the attack, the suspect made off on foot towards Leg Street.

Nightclub owner Paul Fitton said he and his pregnant girlfriend, who were asleep in their living quarters above the nightclub when the attack happened, were left 'shocked' by the incident.

Anyone with information about the attack should contact Oswestry Police Station on 101.

Funds collected

A SUM OF £511 was donated for the Royal National Lifeboat Institute during a collection at Morrisons supermarket in Oswestry. The collection was held on December 9 and December 10.

Castle visitors step back in time to celebrate Christmas

VISITORS TO Chirk Castle stepped back in time to celebrate a Victorian Christmas.

Hundreds of people enjoyed a trip to the National Trust's castle for a glimpse of how Christmas would have been celebrated in times gone by.

The castle also played host to a craft market with dozens of stalls selling food and Christmas gift ideas. The state rooms in the fortress castle were decadently decorated with Christmas trees, foliage and spices. Youngsters could take part in a 'Have a Go' nativity play and Christmas games and crafts, visit the Elves Workshop and go to see Santa in his grotto.

Choirs provided Christmas music and visitors could enjoy mulled wine and chestnuts as well as other festive food. One of the most popular sights was the Wish Tree, onto which people could tie a note with their wishes for Christmas.

Carolyn Latham, from Chirk Castle, said: "Predictably there are a host of wishes for peace, health, happiness and more than a few requests for Nintendo 3DS, but Santa is sure to be busy this year with plenty hoping for a hug from the big man.

"Some wishes stop you in your tracks though. One read 'I wish that my mum is always happy,' and another said, 'I wish for my cat to still be alive – but I know that won't come true'."

"Last year's weather hasn't put off some as we've seen plenty of people hanging up wishes for a white Christmas."

by Sue Austin

Rachel Humphreys, from Chirk Castle.

Joanne Thompson as Mother Christmas.

The Lord of Misrule shows two-year-old Katelyn George some magic tricks.

Andrew Humphreys as the Lord of Misrule.

Hopes CCTV will help catch thieves

CCTV FOOTAGE could help track down raiders who stole cash and alcohol during a break-in at The Venue leisure complex near Oswestry, it has been claimed.

A gang of up to five people stole a 'substantial' amount of cash and alcohol from the building on Burma Road, Park Hall. But bosses at the centre are hoping those responsible will be captured on camera from The Venue's security system. Police have appealed for witnesses or anyone who knows about the break-in to contact them.

Ian Williams, chief operations officer at The Venue, said said: "We are working closely with West Mercia Police in its investigation following a break in at The Venue in the early hours of last Friday morning. With the advanced security systems that we have in place, we are confident that the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice."

He confirmed that a large quantity of alcohol was among the raiders' haul.

Richard Ewels, spokesman for West Mercia Police, said: "A door was forced and various rooms where searched within the complex.

"Property and a quantity of cash was stolen."

NEWS in brief

Hopes to expand hotel by six rooms

A HOTEL IN Oswestry town centre could soon boast more bedrooms if planning approval is granted.

Plans have been submitted with Shropshire Council to turn a disused outbuilding in Oswestry town centre into six bedrooms for the adjoining Smithfield Hotel.

A statement said: "Full planning and conservation area consent is being sought for a disused outbuilding to the rear of the Smithfield Hotel, into six hotel rooms.

"The work will involve the formation of rooms at ground and first floor levels to provide living accommodation."

The council hopes to determine the application by February 2.

Video screens to promote town

THREE new video display units promoting Welshpool to visitors will help boost the town's economy, it has been claimed.

The 42-inch screens will carry information, adverts and maps of the town centre to passers-by at the market, outside Tesco and at the Tourist Information Centre.

Robert Robinson, town clerk, said: "It is hoped the new technology will help promote Welshpool's businesses and visitor attractions and make the town more appealing to tourists."

DIRECT BLINDS Established Since 1988
Quality Made to Measure
ROLLER BLINDS · WOODEN BLINDS · CONSERVATORY BLINDS · VERTICAL BLINDS · VENETIAN BLINDS · ROMAN BLINDS · PLEATED BLINDS
Perfect Fit Blinds VELUX
BUY 4 Vertical Blinds/ roller blinds Fitted from £199
FREE MEASURING AND FITTING SERVICE
Value for Money FAST Local Service
PROFESSIONAL CARPET CLEANING
MADE TO MEASURE AND READY MADE CURTAINS
MONTGOMERY FABRICS
www.directblindsshropshire.co.uk
01691 670257
www.easyfitblinds.co.uk
For Domestic & Commercial Premises
6 Oswald Road, Oswestry SY11 1RE

133 Longden Coleham, Shrewsbury SY3 7DN
Tel: 01743 344646 Fax: 01743 362741
www.pughsfuneraldirectors.com
A part of Shropshire heritage since 1890.
PUGHS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

www.shannonsales.co.uk
Chirk, Clwyd, LL14 5NA
01691 773257
Shannon Sales

• Suites • Carpets • Karndean • Vinyl • Bedroom & Dining Furniture
• Beds • Lift/Rise Recliners • Nursery Furniture

FREE EYE TESTS
IN YOUR HOME FOR THE HOUSEBOUND OVER 60
Ellerker Opticians
Formerly Eyewear Direct Opticians
Kodak Lens Vision Centre

Professional Eyecare for all the family with Optometrist
Stephen Ellerker
BSc. FCOptom. DCLP.

62-63 Mardol, Shrewsbury, SY1 1PP
01743 344 455
Follow us on Facebook at Ellerker Opticians
www.ellerkeropticians.co.uk

HYPNOTHERAPY
To help you
STOP SMOKING LOSE WEIGHT SUCCESSFULLY
Specialising in all aspects of behaviour change
Cravings & Addictions
Fear of Flying
Driving Test Nerves
Confidence
Exam Nerves
Emotional Issues
Phobias/Fears
Relaxation Sessions
Stress Management
Regression Therapy
Pain Relief
Childbirth
Tel: 0800 458 7092 (Freephone)
01743 367733 01691 682709
Helen Taylor
Clinical Hypnotherapist
LIFE/BUSINESS COACH - NLP Practitioner
GHSC VALIDATED PRACTITIONER
GHR REGISTERED

SEDRAH CHOUDARY
BSc (Hons), MChS
Qualified Podiatrist/Chiropodist
HPC Registered
The Natural Health Centre
Bank Farm Road, Radbrook Green,
Shrewsbury SY3 6DU
Please call for more information or simply to book a treatment
Tel: 01743 248878

P&G Vehicle Repairs
YOUR ONE STOP MOT/SERVICE CENTRE
• M.O.Ts – Class 4 & 7
• Servicing to all makes & models
• Tyres, Balancing & Tracking
• Exhausts, Brakes & Batteries
• Snap-On / Launch Diagnostic code reading
• Parts and accessories available
COLLECTION & DELIVERY AVAILABLE
Contact:
Tel: (01691) 622849
Cargotec Industrial Park, Elson Road, Ellesmere SY12 9JW

COMMENT

email: news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk 01691 668090

Why spend so much time searching for bargains?

WHAT ON earth makes people spend hours queuing outside shops on Boxing Day in the hope of grabbing a bargain?

Is it really worth the hassle?

Seeing TV footage of thousands packing the streets of our major cities, to then charge mindlessly through opened doors to battle with others for some supposed bargain or other, reminded me just how much I hate shopping.

Wild horses wouldn't drag me down to the shops on a Boxing Day – one of the reasons I always volunteer to be in the office.

It's absolute madness. And to hear shoppers telling how they had kept their money in their pockets in the weeks leading up to Christmas in the hope of saving a few bob on Boxing Day makes you realise just how gullible some people can be.

Our high streets have been struggling over the last month despite slashing prices – yet suddenly people have millions to spend in one day of shopping mania.

I'd rather go to my origami classes.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

WHAT DISAPPOINTED me this week was seeing my favourite actor David Jason making an absolute fool of himself as Guy Hubble in the new comedy The Royal Bodyguard.

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN
with Graham Breeze

He has always won my admiration for his brilliant portrayal of characters from Del Boy to Jack Frost.

And who could forget his performances as Mr Toad in Wind In The Willows, Granville in Open All Hours and as Pop Larkin in Darling Buds Of May.

But the Royal Bodyguard was a step too far. I'm not sure if the festive spirit was failing me by Monday night but I barely managed a laugh.

Sir David John White (that's his real name) looked more like Frank Spencer and I stopped laughing at him years ago. What a shame.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

WHAT CHEERED me up was the news that Prince Phillip had left hospital on Tuesday following his emergency heart surgery.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not an active royalist but I do like the Duke. He never fails to make me laugh as he makes one gaff after another as he trots behind the Queen during Royal visits.

His outrageous behaviour exposes the royal family's human side.

Many years ago as a young reporter I had the daunting task of firing questions at Prince Phillip during a press conference when he visited The Centre For Alternative Technology at Machynlleth – terrifying!

Since that day I've always had a soft spot for a man who quickly put me at ease, I do hope he makes a full recovery.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

AND FINALLY I'd like to wish all Chronicle readers and advertisers a happy and prosperous 2012. I'll be seeing the new year in with friends at The Royal Oak Hotel in Welshpool - so please no calls on Sunday.

Running a martial arts club gives Rich a real kick

by Mark Timms

BY DAY Rich Cosgrove spends his time climbing scaffolding, mixing cement or fixing doors to frames.

It's a tough life, being a builder. By night, however, he'll be on a treadmill, beneath the heavy weight of a bench press or in a caged ring with fellow fighters.

For Rich, 28, is one of the region's best mixed martial arts fighters.

He came to the sport late. At the age of 15 he was like any other teen. "I had an interest in most sports but didn't ever really excel in any particular one."

And then he tried his hand at kickboxing. "Finally, it seemed I had found a sport I could genuinely be good at," he says.

"I started to build up how much I was training, first two to three days a week, then three to five.

"Eventually they couldn't get rid of me and I was hooked."

At the age of 21, Rich moved into mixed martial arts, combining his stand up skills with grappling on the ground. Soon enough Team Elite Martial Arts Oswestry was born – Rich was its founding father.

Rich says: "When I started Elite, I never claimed to be the best, I just wanted people to come along and have a go. I fell in love with the sport and just wanted others to do the same."

Success

Elite is now a valuable part of the community and opens its doors to everybody. It provides an arena in which people can get fit, vent their frustrations and contribute to the community at large.

Rich says: "Of course, martial arts is the main focus but we like to use that to bring people together.

"Elite is a great social for some people, especially kids, as we hold parties and get involved with local events; just the other week we had a float at the Oswestry parade where we all got dressed up, a lot of locals said to me that the buzz around our float was electric."

As far as competing goes, Elite has been a huge success and popular martial arts coach Mick Broster joined the team two years ago. It seems set to go from strength to strength.

Rich adds: "We have a lot of successful lads and it really puts a smile on my face seeing them do well.

"I'm not a fan of sob stories but as a kid, I grew up with no father figure, so it's good to give something that I actually missed out on to other people.

Exotic

"We create a nurturing environment and try to bring out the best in people."

Rich made his professional debut in November, in Shrewsbury, at the town's Sports Village.

He certainly made his mark, finishing his battle in 14 seconds by putting his opponent into a chokehold. Mixed martial arts has also given Rich the opportunity to travel all around the world, to places like Thailand, Las Vegas and New Zealand.

By day Rich Cosgrove is a builder.

By night Rich is a mixed martial arts fighter.

"If it wasn't for martial arts I don't think I would have had the motivation to travel to these exotic places alone," he says. "It has been my ticket to the world."

Rich is passionate about training and enjoys being part of a global community: it doesn't matter where on earth he is, he can make connections with other mixed martial arts sportsmen and women – they speak a common language.

Promotes

Through competing, teaching and travelling, Rich also puts Oswestry on the map.

He promotes Team Elite through his honest 'have a go' attitude and community spirit. Thanks to a collaboration between local businesses' the Oswestry club stays afloat and helps kids with self defence, fitness and competition.

He adds: "Elite runs like a business but is a non-profit organisation.

"I really do just do it for the love of the sport and I want to share it with other people as it's done so much for me.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to all the businesses' that have got involved and helped us get to where we are."

●Get details from Team Elite Martial Arts at Oak Street, Oswestry, SY11 1LJ or by calling 07970 856002.

At 28 Rich is one of the region's best mixed martial arts fighters after starting in the sport at the age of 15.

LETTERS & NEWS

01691 668094

Trips take students both near and far...

STUDENTS from Oswestry's secondary school have been travelling near and far to learn more about the world of industry.

While some Marches School pupils visited London to learn more about design and technology, another group travelled to the nearby village of Whittington to have a look around BT's huge communication base.

Students from year nine, 10 and 11 visited London, visiting the Design Museum and the Fashion and Textiles Museum, as well as enjoying a river cruise along the Thames followed by a trip the musical *Shrek*.

Year 10 student Molly Birch said: "We learned a lot about the design world especially looking at high and low end market trends.

"It was a fantastic trip, enjoyed by all and we would love to do again."

Closer to home, 12 Year 10 students visited Whittington House to take part in the BT Work Inspiration Programme.

The programme involves students attending a one day event, looking at the way the world of work is changing and to understand a little more about BT as an organisation and the jobs that are carried out.

Fireguard reminder after fire at house

AN ELDERLY man was checked over by ambulance staff after a fire at his home near Oswestry.

The fire started near the hearth in the living room of the house in School Road, Trefonen.

Neighbours raised the alarm at 3.10pm after finding the man attempting to deal with the blaze himself.

Two fire crews from Oswestry went to the scene and firefighters put out the fire in under half an hour.

Concerned

Concerned for the householder, who had taken in some smoke, fire crews called for an ambulance, but the elderly man did not need hospital treatment.

Mr Kev Williams, crew manager for the Fire Service said the fire had been confined to the living room of the house.

"We would remind people to make sure they use a fire guard if they have an open fire."

"The alarm was raised by neighbours as the householder was trying to deal with the fire himself."

Station sees rise in users

CHIRK'S railway station has enjoyed a leap in passenger numbers.

The station, along with others on the line, has seen an increase in rail journeys by 49 per cent since 2005, figures from the Office of the Rail Regulator reveal.

The station has benefited from a car park extension and the CCTV at Station Road will be extended in the near future.

Celebrating the birth of Jesus

THE atmosphere seems to change around Christmas time, there's a warm feeling that mellows even Scrooge.

What's it all about, this celebration; it's the king's birthday, King Jesus. Our Christmas lights are a reminder of his birth, when the shepherds in the fields saw a great light, and the wise men saw his star in the east.

His arrival was promised many hundreds of years before and he would be called the Prince of Peace, and when he came the angels sang 'peace on earth, good will to all men'.

So where is the peace, the cynic might ask, the history over the last 2,000 years has been war and what the nations spend on arms in a week is nearly enough to eradicate poverty worldwide.

His message of love was lived out to the extreme – 'love one another as I have loved you. Love your enemies', he said. Few have heeded the message; these know the reality of the peace and joy that comes from heaven.

They are the peacemakers but they long for the dawn of promised day when the Prince of Peace returns to rule and reign and restore peace and harmony to this beautiful tragic planet.

RON JONES
Oswestry

Picture from the Past 1994

This week we flash back to 1994 for a Christmastime picture and we find Oswestry Town Council proudly showing off its new official Christmas card. Pictured with the card are, from left, Oswestry town Mayor Councillor Don Aldridge, Simon Franklin who took the photograph and Sue Franklin who created the artwork.

PM put the country before EU interests

AT the emergency EU summit, David Cameron did something that no other British Prime Minister has done for 38 years – he put the interests of his own country before that of the EU.

He did so because of the Tobin Tax, proposed by Germany and France, a tax on financial transactions which will have minimum impact on the other 26 member countries but will generate an estimated 57 billion euros per year for the EU.

Unfortunately because 80 per cent of those transactions are made via London's money market, London and Britain would provide 40 billion of the total amount and would invariably lose custom to elsewhere in the world.

Mr Cameron asked for assurances that Britain would be protected from this totally unfair situation – it was refused. You may be sure that any proposal which would do similar damage to the economies of Germany and France would not even be considered.

President Sarkozy acted like a peevish little schoolboy accusing Mr Cameron of looking after number one, can you believe that, a Frenchman accusing someone else of looking after number one?

Ed Miliband shot himself in the foot by opposing the PM's actions, saying those actions will isolate us in Europe. We have been isolated in Europe for 38 years, we are tolerated only because of the astronomical sums of money we hand over on a daily basis, money we have no say in where it is spent.

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Apply for academy status now before it's too late

IT SEEMS that Maesbury Primary School may have to close. It has been unable at this late stage to win academy status primarily because other local schools felt unable to partner with us.

However, I would urge other schools in Shropshire to go for academy status now rather than await the next round of closures.

At a meeting in the Shirehall, David Taylor confirmed that the next review would include ALL the schools.

And at a meeting dealing with Stiperstones School which I attended, Norrie Porter, when asked a question from the floor referred to this round, meaning there will be more Shropshire school reviews leading to more closures.

DAVID V. JONES,
Maesbury

LETTERS to the Editor

POST	FAX	E-MAIL
Readers' Letters, Oswestry Chronicle, Ketley, Telford TF1 5HU	01952 254605	letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

Remember loved ones

THIS Christmastime and New Year, the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) is offering your readers the chance to remember loved ones lost to cancer with a Candle of Hope pin badge.

The gold brooch symbolically lights the way to a future free from cancer as money raised from its sale funds essential scientific and education cancer prevention programmes.

The candle emblem provides a reminder of a loved one as well as hope for the future by helping us raise awareness of cancer prevention.

Scientists estimate that by making changes to the food we eat, increasing our amount of physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight about a third of the most common cancers could be prevented.

To support our Candle of Hope appeal and receive your badge, please make a donation at www.wcrf-uk.org/candle or call our team on Freephone 0800 970 1461.

TERESA NIGHTINGALE,
General Manager, WCRF

Seeking tales of cycling

OLDER PEOPLE love to recall tales and memories of things they did in their younger days. Most people owned a bicycle.

I am organising a special wall in the National Cycle Museum to display letters and emails of cycling memories of years ago. Copies of photos are also welcome.

Memories of Mid Wales and the borders will be especially relevant.

If you can help with the project, please send to The National Cycle Museum, Automobile Palace, Temple Street, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5DL or email me at fredaatvillas2002@yahoo.co.uk

The museum should be open for visitors on December 28, 29 and 30 from 10am to 4pm.

FREDA DAVIES
Trustee and volunteer job share curator
Welshpool

Railway's Santa's a runaway success

RAIL enthusiasts say they had a good response to their first Santa train service in Oswestry.

The service was run by Cambrian Heritage Railways and money raised from the festive specials will go towards the group's efforts to reinstate a regular passenger service from Oswestry to the mainline network at Gobowen.

Station master Mike Rowe said: "Cambrian Heritage Railways have had a good response for their first ever Santa Train and grotto at Old Oswestry Station.

"We have tried to keep prices down in the current financial climate we believe £5 for a train ride and a quality present from Santa is good value."

Steve Bowkett, from Whittington, who visited the Santa Train at the weekend with his two children, said he was impressed.

He described the service as 'enjoyable and good value' and said the staff were 'lovely and caring' who brought a good atmosphere to the day.

A host of other attractions were available including face painting, a grotto, a colouring competition and a Christmas raffle.

Although this year was the first time the Santa Trains have been running at the Oswestry base, a service has been running from Llynclys for some years.

Car rally stopping in county next year

THE Club Triumph Round Britain Reliability Run will be in Shropshire in 2012.

The event, in October, will use the Gledrid Services near Oswestry as a checkpoint.

Held once every two years, the run sees 130 classic Triumph cars drive 2,000 miles in 48 hours non-stop, from London to John O'Groats via the east coast.

It then heads south taking in the M74 and the M6 to Oswestry and into Wales, Bristol and Lands End before ending back in London.

Reliability

This event, which has a 60s RAC Rally feel to it, will arrive at Gledrid late on October 6.

The 2012 reliability run will be held in aid of Children With Cancer.

In 2008 The RNLI received £64,000 and in 2010 MIND benefited by £51,000.

The club's president, Derek Pollock, received the MBE in 2010 for his services and club's assistance in raising thousands of pounds in funds for charity.

Tower light lit way to service

A CHRISTMAS Eve service took place in a church on the Shropshire and Wales border.

St Silin's Church, in Llansillin, held a Christmas Eve Holy Communion on Saturday. The Crown of Light on the Church tower shone out to guide the congregation.

Advice on offer to keep oil bills low

RESIDENTS and homeowners in the Welshpool area are being urged to take advice to help keep their heating oil bills under control.

Consumer Focus Wales has launched a bilingual 'top tips' campaign aimed at helping people who use domestic heating oil to keep their bills from ballooning.

The campaign – in partnership with EST and supported by Age Cymru, Care & Repair Cymru, and the Welsh Government – will encourage households which rely on heating oil to get the best possible deal.

It is part of Consumer Focus Wales' work to tackle fuel poverty, which now affects one in every four homes in Wales and more than 40 per cent of people living in off-gas properties.

Lindsey Kearton, policy manager at Consumer Focus Wales, said: "Our research into people living off the mains gas network last year revealed the difficulties people often face in keeping their homes warm.

"In recent years we have seen big spikes in the cost of heating oil during the winter months, and the devastating impact that can have on household budgets."

The campaign is part of a coordinated drive by consumer groups and industry officials to encourage heating oil consumers to stock up early on winter supplies when prices tend to be lower and suppliers have spare delivery capacity.

Fireworks to return

THE SUCCESS of Welshpool's big free fireworks display looks to have secured its long-term future for the town.

The event, provided for free by the town council, attracted more than 2,000 people and donations from those attending on the night were almost £500 up on last year at £1,345.

The event cost the council £3,500 to put on and a similar budget has been set aside for a display on November 3, 2012.

Headteacher resigns from her post

A HEADTEACHER has resigned from her post just months after her school was placed in special measures by inspectors.

Powys County Council said that Suzanne Foster, from Ysgol Maesydre in Welshpool, had decided to leave her post.

Mrs Foster, who has been headteacher at the school since April 2008, was suspended with immediate effect in October, in an attempt by Governors to 'restore confidence' in the school after it was put in special measures by inspection body Estyn.

She was also suspended in February this year pending an investigation into allegations made against her, but was cleared to return to work later that month.

But the council said Mrs Foster had decided to leave Maesydre School with effect from December 31.

As the school has already broken up for the Christmas holidays, Mrs Foster has effectively already left her position and will not return to the school.

John Evans, communications manager at Powys County Council, said Mrs Foster sends her best wishes to those linked with the school.

He said: "Mrs Foster sends children, staff and parents her best wishes for the future, and the governors wish Mrs Foster all the best for her future."

He added that Lynette Lovell will continue to act as headteacher until Easter, giving the governors chance to recruit a replacement.

"Lynnette Lovell will continue as acting headteacher at the school until Easter 2012.

"The governing body will commence the recruitment process for a new headteacher in January," he said.

Mrs Foster was not available for comment.

Opinions sought over teaching Welsh earlier

RESIDENTS IN Mid Wales are being urged to have their say on the future of Welsh language education in the region's schools as part of plans to teach more pupils in Welsh from a younger age.

People across Powys are to be asked for their views on the county council's Welsh Medium education plans as part of a consultation exercise starting in January.

The county council is developing a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan that will set out how it will respond and contribute to the Welsh Government's vision for Welsh medium education and training development for 2012 to 2015.

by Andrew Morris

As part of the plan, every local authority in Wales has been asked to develop strategic plans to show how they will help deliver seven improvements identified in the Welsh Government's vision.

The seven objectives include

- More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh as a percentage of the Year Two cohort.
- More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school.
- More learners aged 14 to 16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

Standards

- More learners aged 16 to 19 studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh.
- More learners with higher skills in Welsh, which includes standards of attainment in Welsh and Welsh second language.
- Welsh-medium provision for learners with additional learning needs.
- Workforce planning and continuing professional development.

Councillor Stephen Hayes, Powys County Council cabinet member for learning and leisure, said: "Our Welsh Education Strategic Plan sets out how we will respond to the Welsh Government's overall objectives and it is essential that our residents have an opportunity to comment on that response.

Crucial

"The strategic plan adds detail to recent cabinet decisions relating to Welsh medium education in our secondary schools.

"It is crucial to developing our Welsh medium education over the next three years and we are anxious to hear the views of teachers, governing bodies and those interested in Welsh medium education.

"The draft plan will be published on the council's website from January 2 and residents will have six weeks to comment before a final version is approved by the cabinet."

More information about the draft plan will be available at *www.powys.gov.uk* from January 2, 2012.

A Welsh medium version of the draft plan will be available in early January.

Happy times for club at Christmas meal

From left, Councillor Francesca Jump, club organiser Jill Stansfield, and Welshpool mayor Estelle Bleivas.

From left, Margaret Grew and Sheila Davies raise their glasses at Happy Times Christmas dinner.

Members of the club at the event in Church House, Welshpool.

Margaret Grew and Marjorie Macqueen.

MEMBERS OF The Happy Times Club in Welshpool had their Christmas dinner at the Church House. The club has been running successfully over the years, but new members are always welcome at the meetings held on Thursdays between 10.30am and 2.30pm, except the third Thursday of the month. Call Jill Stansfield on 01686 630689.

Craft fair could be a regular attraction

CRAFT FAIRS will take place at Welshpool's Corn Exchange next year.

Welshpool Town Council said it had arranged for events to be held on March 3, April 14 and May 26.

Town clerk Robert Robinson said: "These will provide the opportunity for independent local craft workers and artists to offer a wide range of arts and crafts for sale. If the above dates prove to be popular we will consider holding these on a regular basis throughout the summer months as well.

"With free admission for visitors, this also gives you a chance to purchase original and unique work directly from craft workers and artists."

Anyone is interested in having a stall, should call the town clerk's office on (01938) 553142 or e-mail *wtcouncil@btinternet.com* for further details and booking form.

The stalls will be allocated on a first come, first served basis with the cost of a stall at £10 each and access on the day will be from 8.30am.

Eco prize for trust

BOSSES at the National Trust in Wales have scooped a top honour for the work they have done in harnessing green energy techniques at their many properties.

The trust's plans to reduce energy use, including at Powis Castle in Welshpool, saw it pick up the Go Green environmental award at the IWA Western Mail Business Awards 2011.

The National Trust has committed itself to targets of 20 per cent reduction in energy use and 60 per cent generation from renewable sources by 2013. The team in Wales has already smashed the target by cutting energy use by almost 50 per cent

Actor's trip

DEON Stewardson, who is best known as Anders Du Plessis in the ITV hit series *Wild at Heart,* was out in Welshpool mixing happily with drinkers and posing for photographs on Friday night. The star of the popular series was spending a few days at The Royal Oak Hotel.

Advertisement Feature

WHERE CAN I GET ADVICE ABOUT SAFEGUARDING SEVERELY AUTISTIC ADULT COUSIN?

Q: My cousin has severe autism. His father died many years ago and my aunt, who looks after him on her own at home, now has terminal cancer. Arrangements have been made for my cousin to go into a home, but clearly he cannot manage his own affairs and I am not sure my aunt has made any provision for that as I don't think she expected him to live into adulthood. I am very close to my aunt and feel I should find out the facts and then approach her about the matter. The problem is that I don't really know where to go for advice.

A: Dealing fairly and correctly with your cousin's affairs is a complex area of the law and the appropriate expertise of the lawyers concerned is vital. The first principle is that your cousin should be able to make his own decisions and manage his own affairs so far as he is able. Even if he cannot do so fully, his wishes and feelings need to be carefully and fully considered.

If your cousin wishes to, and is able to, he should appoint an Attorney to manager his affairs, for instance by a Lasting Power of Attorney. If he cannot, then a family member or a professional Deputy can be appointed in the Court of Protection to manage his financial affairs.

If there are issues about where your cousin should live, who should look after him and whom he should see, problems can arise if he is not able to make these decisions for himself. Further problems arise if he is cared for in an environment where, effectively, he is deprived of his liberty. Where dialogue and negotiation cannot resolve these an application can be made to the Court of Protection to determine what is in your cousin's best interests.

Further information relating to this question is available from John Lancaster, a Partner and Solicitor Advocate of GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit www.ghplegal.co.uk or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 12-6pm (no appointment necessary).

WELSHPOOL NEWS

Museum's festive fun

POWYSLAND MUSEUM has been celebrating the festive season with a special Christmas exhibition. This year the museum has sought to visualise the old traditional song The Twelve Days of Christmas with the help of local shops, schools, groups, organisations and museum staff. Seen with a partridge in a pear tree that was created by the craft team from Coed Isaf at Leighton, near Welshpool, is museum curator Eva Bredsdorff.

Pylon letters plea

SAMPLE letters have been designed to help encourage campaigners to write and fight against plans which could involve massive pylons being built through Shropshire and Mid Wales.

Montgomeryshire Against Pylons has been formed against plans to build a substation in Mid Wales and to stop a route for a 400,000 volt cable being put in place.

And the group has now created sample letters on its website in an attempt to get more people to write objection letters to energy companies and the Infrastructure Planning Commission,

A 20-point list of grounds on which to oppose the plans has been posted on the website www.montgomeryshire againstpylons.org as a guide to help people compose protest letters.

A huge campaign is opposing plans for up to 600 more upland wind turbines, which could be connected to the National Grid in Shropshire by 46-metre high pylons via a huge substation at either Abermule, near Newtown, or Cefn Coch, near Llanfair Caereinion.

Critical

Jonathan Wilkinson, who is a resident of Meifod and chairman of the Montgomeryshire Against Pylon action group, said: "I realise that some people may be getting weary of writing letters on this issue, but we wouldn't be asking unless it was absolutely critical.

"We want to leave this committee in no doubt that the people of Mid Wales and Shropshire are totally opposed to the proposals to industrialise our uplands and valleys."

National Grid said it hoped to make an announcement on the preferred options in the New Year after a further round of public consultation.

The energy giant has collated the results of its extensive public consultation held throughout the summer and will distribute the findings to residents next year.

But despite speculation that the preferred corridor for the hundreds of pylons has already been chosen, the company stressed that no decision had yet been made.

Mr Wilkinson said he also hoped people would organise fundraising events to raise money so MAP would be able to fight.

Police warning to cash van robbers

POLICE cars will be following cash vans used by banks and supermarkets in the Welshpool area in a new crackdown on cash-in-transit robberies.

Dyfed-Powys Police said it would be stepping up patrols in a bid to tackle van raids in the run-up to New Year.

It comes months after robbers fled with a substantial amount of cash during a late-night raid on a security van outside Tesco in Welshpool, and a substantial amount of cash was stolen from a security guard outside Barclays Bank in Machynlleth.

Dyfed-Powys Police said they would be implementing a number of tactics to crack down on this crime.

Officers in patrol cars will follow the cash in transit vehicles as they come into the force area.

"Although they are extremely rare, we know that in previous years we have been a target for groups of people who carry out these offences," said Detective Chief Superintendent Steve Wilkins."

Anyone with information about cash-in-transit robbers is urged to call Dyfed-Powys Police on 101 or 0845 3302000.

Residents will have a say on shops scheme

A PUBLIC consultation into plans for a multi-million pound shopping development in Welshpool will be held next week.

The one-day consultation will be held into plans by Oswestry-based J Ross Development to build a shopping development in the Church Street car park.

The proposals are for three shops and a cafe to be constructed on the car park, but town councillors have expressed fears about reduced parking provision, loss of space for coach parking and how they believe it would reduce footfall into the town centre.

Now Welshpool Town Council says it is planning to hold a public consultation on the matter on Tuesday, January 3, at the Corn Exchange in the town hall between 9am and 9pm.

A report to the town council from the planning and development committee says: "The committee recommends that with such an important decision to the town that a public consultation should be held on the first Tuesday of January at the Corn Exchange seeking public opinion, so that the council has a clear indication as to the way the public wish to see any response from the town council to the next planning application consultation."

At a meeting last month, Councillor Ann Holloway said she believed the proposed new development would completely destroy the town.

"I honestly believe the development would be the death of this town as we know it," she said.

DVD launched to keep young safe online

POLICE HAVE helped launch an initiative aimed to keep youngsters in the Welshpool area safe online.

Dyfed-Powys Police along with the other Welsh police forces and the Welsh Assembly said two bilingual DVDs have been produced in partnership with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre.

They will be used in lessons delivered to pupils aged between nine and 14 years-old to raise awareness of safety issues when using the internet.

The initiative is from the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme funded by the four Welsh police forces and the Welsh Assembly.

The programme is delivered by trained police officers to pupils throughout Wales between the ages of five and 16 years of age. The focus of the programme is to help prevent crimes and to promote positive citizenship through lessons around three main themes - drugs and substance misuse; social behaviour and community; and safety.

With our huge Sale savings... you really can have your cake and eat it in the Alan Ward Winter Sale!

SEALY POLARIS
4'6 double bed. Features a 5 zone pressure support anti-allergy mattress with memory foam. Drawers & headboard are optional extras.
VOUCHER PRICE £474
Was £726 Sale £499

G PLAN HERITAGE
Large D-end dining table with 6 leather chairs. Made using natural french oak. Other items available in the collection.
VOUCHER PRICE £1124
RRP £2398 Sale £1199

LUXOR
Corner group with pillow back in a choice of colours. Photograph shows extra seat only £100.
VOUCHER PRICE £949
Was £1449 Sale £999

ABINGDON STAINFREE
Arena 100% polypropylene stainfree carpet. Available from stock. Choice of colours.
£8.99m² Was £18.99m²

0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

SAVE
more than half price
on many items

PLUS
up to 40 months interest
free credit available

PLUS
£500 worth of
vouchers off sale prices

pick up your vouchers instore or online at www.alanward.co.uk

www.alanward.co.uk

Showroom: Ennerdale Road, Harlescott, Shrewsbury. SY1 3LD. Tel: 0800 130 3103
Opening times: 29th & 30th Dec 10am-6pm, 31st Dec 10am-5pm, 1st Jan 11am-5pm, 2nd Jan 10am-6pm

Alan Ward

LOUNGE | DINING | BEDROOM | CARPETS | FLOORING | FINE ART | KITCHENS | ACCESSORIES

£20,000 fund for groups to share

A LOCAL joint committee in the Oswestry area has more than £20,000 to give away to community project in coming weeks.

Members of the Gobowen, Selattyn, St Martins and Weston Rhyn Local Joint Committee have extended the deadline for groups and organisations to apply for funding for a week.

The committee will hold its final meeting for the financial year on February 14 All Saints Church Hall, Gobowen. The meeting will start at 7pm and look at issues affecting people in the area.

Chairman councillor David Lloyd said the meeting would be the last opportunity for organisations serving the local area to apply for grant funding to support projects in this financial year.

"To date a total of £21,757 has supported 21 projects, which leaves £5,038 awaiting allocation," he said.

"The closing date for applications, originally January 11, has been extended to January 16."

"We are one of six Big Local areas across the country project which is going to bring funding of £1 million to the area. Our support will help groups prove outcomes position projects that offer economic benefit to the area."

Hospital's on top when it comes to hygiene standards

HELEN WILLIAMS has got more mops on her trolley than Tiger Woods has clubs: red ones, blue ones, yellow ones, a disposable one, one to do the walls and one for those tricky, high-up curtain rails that are a pig to reach.

"It is quite a selection," she admits, selecting one of the tools of the trade from her smart new cleaning trolley.

Armed with buckets and mops and an almost scientific array of cleaning materials and cloths, Helen is one of a 57-strong army of committed housekeepers whose job is to keep Oswestry's orthopaedic hospital spick and span.

by Ben Bentley

It is a team that has recently been recognised as producing some of the highest hospital hygiene standards in the UK.

Over the summer records show cleanliness had been scored at 97.3 per cent; the national calculated target is 86.4 per cent.

Now many other hospitals which every day fight the good fight against dirt and infection must be eyeing such standards with envy.

But what is the secret of their success? When did you last see a hospital cleaner showing pride in their work – even when that work is cleaning a toilet pan?

This is precisely the case with Helen and the rest of the friendly team who also muck in with patient care whenever needed.

Maybe it's to do with the environment here; after all, despite it being one of the most highly regarded orthopaedic hospitals in Britain, it is a relatively small operation where everybody knows each other and patients, certainly on Clwyd Ward where Helen works, know the cleaners' names.

The real key, perhaps, is that these cleaners are part of a permanent workforce; they are not contract workers.

"I am a big believer in 'in-house'," adds facilities supervisor Martine Williams, referring to the employee status of her staff.

"You get dedication and continuity and the feeling of being part of a team."

Can larger, inner city hospitals, where often there are contracted housekeepers, ever really be as clean?

Phil Davies, facilities manager at the hospital, says: "Inner city hospitals often have high staff turnover. We are very low for that.

"When staff know that perhaps what they do has no consequence (to them), there's no pride."

Back on the ward, housekeeper Helen Williams says: "We are not just cleaners, we are domestic housekeepers. We do things like clean the jugs for patients and if they have not got visitors we are there for them – we are often their first port of call for an errand."

As such they have all been trained to NVQ standards in what, in the ongoing battle to prevent infection, is becoming more like a science.

And hygiene is crucial to patients at a time when they already ill.

As a measure of how important patients rank hygiene standards in hospital, Helen says: "A lot of people look on their computers and choose to come here because they have done a search and we come up.

"They see us on the computer as a clean hospital and they will wait and ask to come to us."

Cleaner Helen Williams at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Martine Williams, Mandy Gordon, Wendy Williams, Jane Herbert and Helen Williams.

Joe rides out in aid of needy children

A KIND-HEARTED youngster is to lead a 10-mile sponsored horse ride through the Shropshire countryside after being touched by the plight of less well-off children.

Seven-year-old Joseph Walters has planned the fundraiser after being moved by the work The Children's Society does for disadvantaged youngsters.

He will ride his horse Tiny from Grimpo to Ruyton-XI-Towns and return via Wykey and Haughton.

The youngster, who attends St Michael's School in West Felton, hopes to carry out the money-making venture before the New Year on a date to be arranged.

An open invitation has been given to other horse riders to take part in the fundraiser and more details can be found by visiting Joseph's just giving page at www.justgiving.com/Joe-and-Tiny where donations can also be made.

Joseph's mother Rebecca Walters said her son was inspired to organise the fundraiser after he attended a carol service at his school.

She said: "He was just so inspired and moved after the service. He heard about children in poverty and who were away from their families at Christmas time."

Joseph has so far raised £266 through his just giving site with many donors commending his plan.

Driver cut from car

A WOMAN was cut from the wreckage of her car and airlifted to hospital after it left the road and ended up on its roof in a field near Oswestry.

The woman, who has not been named but is in her 50s, was driving the car, which left the B5009 near Queens Head and ended up 20 metres off the road. She escaped serious injury in the crash on Christmas Eve.

Firefighters cut the driver free after the smash which happened between Babbinswood and Whittington at about 8.45am.

Suzie Fothergill, West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman, said the woman was flown to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital for treatment for cuts to her forehead.

Is your conservatory too cold in winter?

too hot in summer?

Guardian Roof is the answer to be able to use all year round

* *Roof U-Value 0.16*
* *Roof Windows*
* *Choice of internal finish*
* *BER Rating up... Heating costs down*

MEADOW VIEW

WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES

WELSHPOOL 01938 556555 SHREWSBURY 01743 368700

Dine and demo nights delight

RESTAURANT bosses in Oswestry will be transforming their bar into a kitchen to meet soaring demand for cookery classes.

A new kitchen is being installed into Brooks Around The Corner, in Church Street, for customers to use after the success of its special dine and demo nights.

The work will be carried out in the upstairs room of the restaurant in January and there are plans for it to be used for a new cookery school next year.

The owners will be installing new cookers and hobs for people to use

It will also be a place to hold children's cooking sessions, birthday parties and baking classes.

Lisa Newton, co-owner of the restaurant, said: "We thought we would try the dine and demo event in October and it did really well. The last event had up to 16 people.

"My husband said we should put in the ovens and hobs to make it a nicer experience up there. It will look professional."

The restaurant has been working in schools teaching cooking and owners thought it would be a great space for the school without kitchens.

It is also planned to hold 'make your own pizza' nights.

For more information visit www.brooksinoswestry.co.uk

Wildlife area gets revamp

A RECENTLY formed environmental group says it has been making great strides in improving a wildlife area in a village near Oswestry.

Bryn y Castell Coppice Conservation Group, based in Gobowen, has held a major clean-up of the area.

Group members have also been planting trees to turn the coppice into a welcoming wildlife area for local families.

A group spokeswoman said: "The group's first year has seen considerable improvements in the coppice.

"Several years' accumulation of rubbish has been removed from the site and about 120 saplings have been planted, most of which have survived.

"Some potentially dangerous trees have been removed and the central glade enlarged. Access has been improved with steps and a bridge.

"A biodiversity survey of the coppice has been made and a start has been made on extending this across the parish.

"The group held its first annual general meeting and will continue for another year, with future plans including more planting, management to encourage wildlife and improve access. The amount of rubbish in the coppice seems to be decreasing."

Anyone who would like to become a Friend of Bryn Y Castell Coppice Conservation Group can call 01691 654325.

SALE ON NOW

sale

With FREE Delivery* *And* Special Introductory Offers

SAVE over 50%

NEW **Marcelo** 3 seater leather and **Leather***Lux*™ double recliner sofa.
ASP £1799
Sale Price £899
INTRODUCTORY OFFER PRICE
£799

SAVE over 50%

NEW **Tank** Extending table and 4 swivel chairs.
ASP £1799
Sale Price £899
INTRODUCTORY OFFER PRICE
£799
when bought with matching sideboard.

And UP TO 3 Years 0% Interest Free Credit†

SAVE over 50%

NEW **Essential Sleep Support** Single (3' x 6'3") divan.
ASP £399
Sale Price £199
INTRODUCTORY OFFER PRICE
£174

SAVE over 50%

NEW **Essential Sleep Memory** Double (4'6" x 6'3") 2 drawer divan.
ASP £999
Sale Price £499
INTRODUCTORY OFFER PRICE
£449

And EXTRA Sale Savings

UP TO **30% off Famous Brands**

VI-SPRING Life-Changing
G PLAN UPHOLSTERY
ercol

ENDS BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Collins & Hayes
Old Charm
Sleepeezee

And Fantastic Sale Savings on

TEMPUR® MATTRESSES AND PILLOWS

And up to 60% off Showroom Clearance

Many models available for immediate delivery

Furniture Village - where else.

Your local Furniture Village:
Telford Forge Retail Park, Colliers Way,
Telford TF3 4AG Tel: 01952 213170
furniturevillage.co.uk

Open: Friday 9.30-8. Saturday 9-6. New Year's Day 11-5. Monday - Friday 9.30-8

*Free Delivery to mainland Britain only on purchases over £250. †Cash price £2400, deposit £240, 36 monthly payments of £60 = £2160. Total payable £2400. Subject to status. Written quotation on request. Licensed credit brokers - Slough, SL1 4DX. 0% APR representative. ASP = After Sale Price. Headboard optional extra on divans. Scatter cushions are optional extras.

FURNITURE Village
you're in safe hands

Author's appeal to owners of e-readers

AN AUTHOR from Maesbury hopes people who have been given a Kindle or eBook for Christmas will use them to download her latest book.

Carolyn McCrae's fourth book Highly Unsuitable Girl is ready to download now ahead of its February 1 publication from Amazon.

Mrs McCrae said: "Hopefully people who have been given a Kindle for Christmas will try out their new gift by downloading the book.

"The book is a tale of a woman's experience of marriage and relationship and is my fourth book. I think it is an interesting read.

"People can download the book by visiting my website at *carolynmccrae.com* and they can find out more about the first three books as well as information on how to buy them."

Mrs McCrae, who runs a marketing business with her husband Colin, moved to Shropshire in 2007 and previously lived in Boraston and Steventon near Ludlow.

The writer revealed that sales of her first three books raised cash for the Help for Heroes charity.

She said: "I arranged for the books to be sold by the Bradford Arms in Llanymynech. For everyone £5 we got, £4 went to Help For Heroes.

"We have just sent £200 off to Help for Heroes thanks to the sales."

Group in need of space to store work materials

A COMMUNITY group that spruces up empty shops in Oswestry is appealing for a space in which it can store its materials and equipment.

Volunteers at the Footfall group have built up a supply of cleaning equipment and ladders used as part of a project to create displays in empty shop windows to attract more shoppers into the town centre. Members are now looking for an easily accessible area to store the equipment.

by Graham Breeze

The Footfall group was formed in August 2009 and aims to attract more shoppers into the town and see empty shops open for business again.

Volunteers work with schools and art groups to put up displays in exhibitions in empty shop windows.

John Haworth, one of the group's members, said Footfall was looking for a storeroom of some description within the town centre.

"It doesn't have to be a big space, just somewhere relatively easily accessible," he said.

Variety

"We want to make Footfall a really sustainable, innovative, vibrant force within Oswestry, utilising empty shops and other underused spaces for a variety of community and arts projects, thus encouraging more footfall throughout the town," he said.

"It's taken a lot of hard work and perseverance to get agents and landlords to allow their empty shops to be used. But following the successful launch of our first footfall shop – 4 Smithfield Street – and its subsequent sale just four months later, more empty shops have been made available.

"We collect a key in the morning, organise a team of volunteers to clean windows, vacuum floors, clean shop frontages and even paint and remove old signs if necessary and put in an exhibition and returning the key before the end of the day." E-mail stephen.haworth2@btinternet.com

Club welcomes new swimmers

COACHES at Oswestry Otters Swimming Club are on the lookout for new members.

The club, which will soon be launching sessions at the town's new multi-million pound leisure centre, recently held its annual meeting when chairman Peter Fynes thanked committee members for their help.

He said it had been a year in which Otters has continued to go from strength to strength. "The club, which was formed over 30 years ago has over 50 members of all ages," Mr Fynes said.

Swimmers train at Oswestry School and Moreton Hall School and will also be starting a session one evening per week at the new Oswestry Leisure Centre from January.

At the annual Oswestry Sports Awards, the undefeated under-16 boys relay team of Brad Hunter, Chris Owen, Rob Evans and Dan Jones took the team award and Chloe Barton the outstanding achievement award.

The club welcomes new swimmers of all ages who want to swim competitively and train in a supportive environment. Call Yvonne Edwards on 07971 646559 or Mr Fynes on 07980 298265.

Catwalk boost for hospice

STUDENTS from the Visage Hair and Beauty salon at Walford and North Shropshire College have raised £800 for Hope House Children's Hospices through a catwalk show. Accepting the cheque is Vanessa Thomas, fundraising manager for Hope House, with students Jack Harding, 17, and Hannah Williams, 25, presenting.

Solicitor's promoted at firm

Alison Monaghan.

A YOUNG family lawyer who qualified at the age of 23 has been promoted to senior solicitor at the Oswestry law practice where she completed her training.

Alison Monaghan joined GHP Legal in its Willow Street offices in 2004 on a two year training contract and became a fully qualified solicitor in 2006.

A former head girl of Holywell High School, Alison realised a long-time dream to study law when she won a scholarship to University of Wales Aberystwyth. After graduating she went on to Cardiff School of Law before completing her training at GHP Legal.

Alison specialised in matrimonial law and undertook additional training in separating couples and children's matters. She is also a member of Resolution, a specialist group of just 5,000 lawyers in the UK who are family law experts with experience in resolving family disputes by using out-of-court negotiations.

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance
3 course meal with entertainment
31st December from 7pm
£42.50 pp

New Year's Day Lunch 12-2pm
3 course menu and coffee
£24.95 pp hurry limited spaces!

LORD HILL HOTEL & RESTAURANT

Please contact reception for availability and dates
01743 232601 www.thelordhill.co.uk

star extra TRAVEL (01902) 319999 (Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm) starextra@shropshirestar.co.uk www.shropshirestar.com/starextratravel

STAR EXTRA TRAVEL, the travel department of the Shropshire Star, offers a wide range of short breaks and holidays. For your security, all our tour operators are members of ABTA – the Travel Association and hold an ATOL (Air Travel Organisers Licence) for holidays by air. Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability.

Canadian Rockies and Grizzly Bears

Pick of the week

PRICE FROM £1,799

Sparkling Vancouver, more-British-than-Britain Victoria, the famous resort of Whistler, Jasper, Sun Peaks and capital of the Rockies, Banff are all visited on this escorted tour of Western Canada.

Your first two nights are spent in beautiful Vancouver where you can explore the waterfront English Bay area, renovated Gastown and take in famous Grouse Mountain's stunning views.

A ferry crossing takes you to stunning Vancouver Island, where British Columbia's provincial capital is Victoria by name and Victorian in nature. Enjoy the delightful city, and the nearby Butchart Gardens, before returning to the mainland and a night in famous Whistler.

Two nights are spent in the Sun Peaks resort, from where you'll enjoy your close encounter with Canadian nature. Glorious Jasper National Park is next, with the chance to take the tramway to the scenic heights above before the holiday is completed with a stunning journey through to Emerald Lake for an overnight stay.

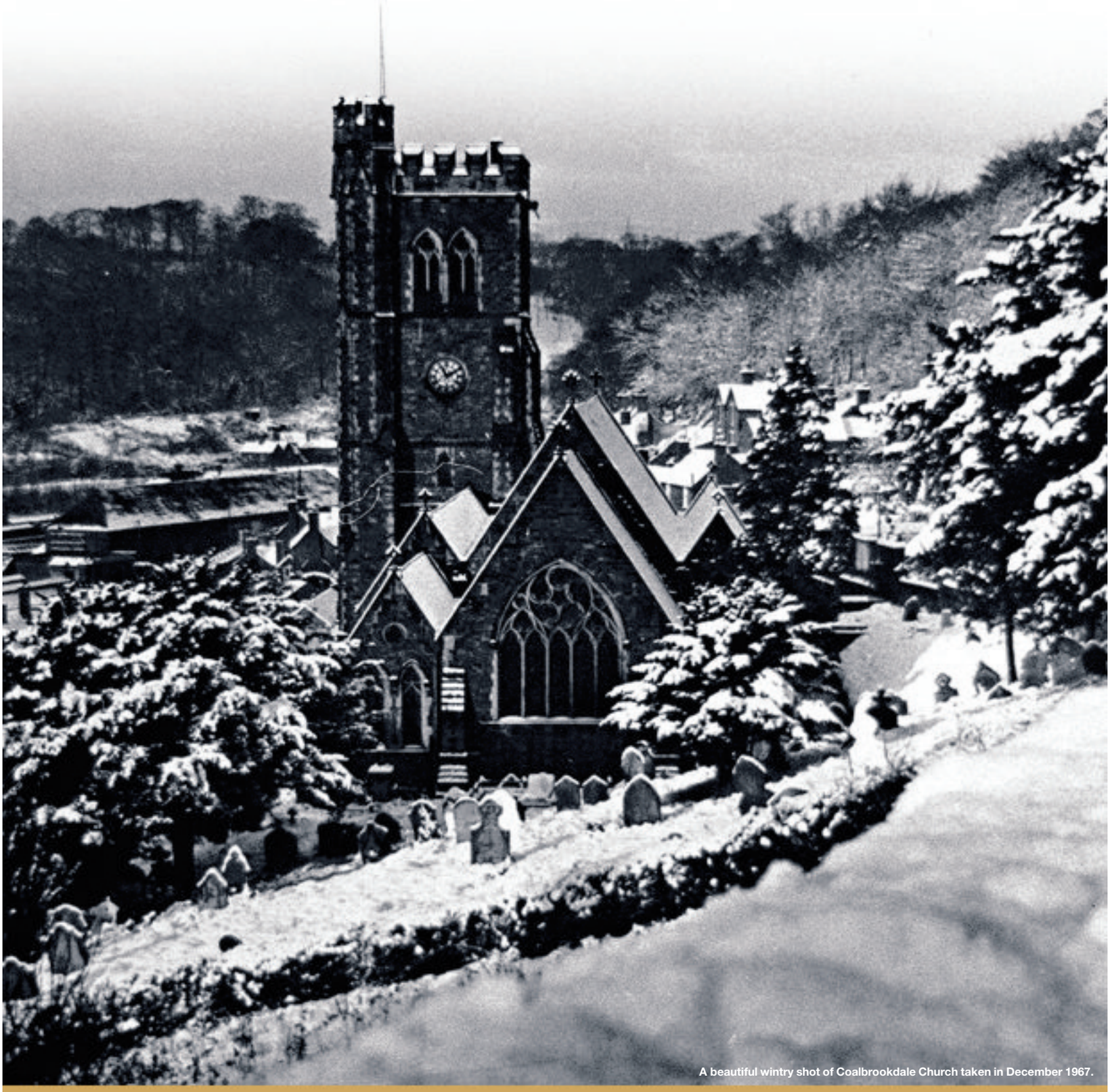
Finally, two nights are spent in Banff before heading east to Calgary and home, at the end of a truly memorable tour.

Price includes return flights, 10 nights room-only and one night half-board, wildlife cruise in Grizzly Bear Valley, drive along the Icefields Parkway with a stop at Lake Louise, full touring itinerary as described and the services of a tour manager in Canada.

INFO
Departure dates : Various
Duration: 13 days
Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
Organised by Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

WINTER MEMORIES

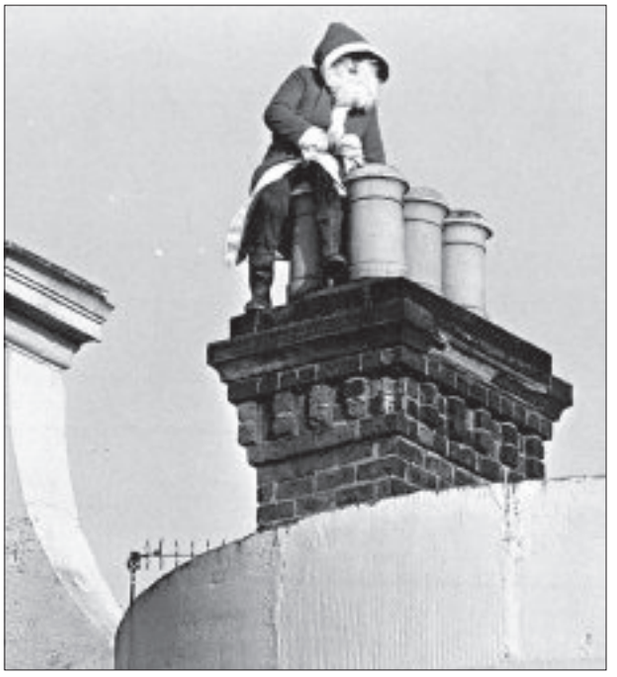
PICTURES FROM THE PAST FROM SHROPSHIRE,
HEREFORDSHIRE AND MID WALES



A beautiful wintry shot of Coalbrookdale Church taken in December 1967.

A 12-PAGE SPECIAL FROM OUR PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

WINTER MEMORIES



Prankster Poddy Podmore on top of Shrewsbury Jail in 1977 with goodies for inmates.

Santa was certainly not short of helpers on this day in 1955 when he was greeted by a sea of expectant happy faces at Shrewsbury.

"Christmas Party for the children of Little Wenlock. Granddad Watson played Father Christmas. Taken about 1929-1930." Photo from Ruth De Leonardis, nee Matthews, of New Jersey, USA, who was born in Little Wenlock in 1925.

A school Christmas party at High Ercall village hall, or maybe at the school, probably around 1955-1956. The teacher standing by the balloons is Gerald Didlick. This picture was loaned by Mrs Janet Owen, of Sundorne.

Is he here yet? An excited crowd waits for Santa to arrive at The Quarry, Shrewsbury, in about 1952.

Children begin to gather on the arrival of Santa in Market Drayton in the early 1950s. Picture: Ann Cordiner.

Winter Memories

The man in the costume, Jeremy Donmall, was reminding everybody in Broseley in 1994 to post early for Christmas.

Santa visits Oswestry Transport Museum in 1995, helped by museum curator David Higman.

These babies came into the world on December 25, 1957, at the old Oswestry and District Hospital – and so had their pictures taken as Christmas Day babies. On the left is the newly born David Dowdy, of Ellesmere, who loaned us the picture. At the time of his birth his parents lived at Canal Cottage, Welsh Frankton.

It's Christmas party time in Wem Town Hall in the 1950s. This picture was sent in by J. Randall, of Wem.

Winter Memories

Weston Lullingfields School panto around 1960. Back row, from left: Thomas Edwards, Donald Hall, Harold Williams, Patricia Bridge, Brian Stockton, Eric Griffiths, Derek Dovaston, Sylvia Lloyd, Graham Hall, Susan Dean, Phillip Kynaston, Freda Woolley, Valerie Thomas, Georgina Allan, Sheila Edwards, Barbara Allan. Middle row: Valerie Dean, Evelyn Griffiths, Ruby Jones, Gillian Hampson, Rita Thomas. Front row sitting: Malcolm Stockton, Ian Thomas, Leslie Hall, Keith Shingler, John Morgan, Susan Morgan, Sandra Steele, Victoria Allan, Peter Bridge. *Picture courtesy of Phyllis Dean.*

Let's never forget that Christmas is really all about children. The Rev Albert Wood and his wife, of Park Villas, Newtown, sent out this charming greeting card to pass on his best wishes for the new year long ago as 1905.

The Battery Electrics Christmas dinner and dance at the Shirehall, Hereford, in about 1964 or 1965. Battery Electrics was in Union Walk, near the bus station. *Picture courtesy of Patricia Rogers of Leominster.*

Salop Health Authority party in Shrewsbury, possibly Christmas 1975. Ella Pilbury stands right while among the guests is SAHA chairman Frank Leath, centre, with nursing sisters either side.

Boys of St Mary's Church choir in Shrewsbury in musical action in the late 1950s. This photo came from Phil Stringer whose brother Adrian was one of the choristers.

Come on, cheer up! The photographer must have forgotten to get them to say "cheese" at this old folk's Christmas party at the Anstice Hall, Madeley, in the 1920s. *Picture: Ron Miles.*

WINTER MEMORIES

Staff of F W Woolworth, Wellington, at their festive party at the Morris Hall, Wellington in about 1960.From left are: S James, G Holding, J Holding, Mr B Hiching, G Langford, J Plant, A Plant, L Summers, and E Norry (now Bates) of Dawley.

The Tanat Theatre at Llanrhaeadr performed A Christmas Carol in 1995, with Michael Morris as Scrooge. The children are Rachel Morris, Kirsty Roper, Rebecca Morris, and Elwyn Jones.

The Blues and Royals on the march in Newtown's 1997 Christmas parade and adding some colour to the event.

It's fancy dress festive fun at Stapleton Village Hall around the late 1930s with a variety of costumes on display.

WINTER MEMORIES

Tired of turkey? Here Mr Alf Shepherd, aged 86, of Heath Hill, Dawley, receives his Christmas dinner, a chicken, from members of Dawley Circle Club who distributed gifts to sick and elderly residents in Dawley in the December of 1968. Far right is club chairman, Councillor Henry Anderson. Club members handed out 390 chickens.

There can't have been many harder Christmases than that of 1940, but they still managed to eat a fine festive dinner at RAF Shawbury. Here's the menu, with all the traditional favourites, including roast turkey and stuffing, sprouts, and Christmas pudding.

Anyone look familiar? This was a Shropshire world champion turkey being admired by, among others, members of the cast of Dad's Army. It is pictured in December 1975 in London at the annual heaviest turkey competition.Weighing in at 71lbs 12oz, the turkey set a new world record. It was produced by Dale Turkeys, of Caynham, Ludlow.

ROYAL AIR FORCE, BRIDGNORTH

Christmas - 1955.

MENU.

CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP

FILLET OF SOLE MEUNIERE

ROAST TURKEY ROAST PORK
CHIPOLATA SAUSAGES
SAVOURY FORCEMEAT
APPLE SAUCE
ROAST AND CREAMED POTATOES
BRUSSEL SPROUTS DAUPHIN PEAS
GRAVY

CHRISTMAS PUDDING BRANDY SAUCE

BISCUITS CHEESE CELERY

COFFEE

FRUIT, NUTS, BEER, MINERALS, CIGARETTES

And here is the menu from the peacetime Christmas of 1955 at RAF Bridgnorth. It's another feast.

Here is Charlie Wood at Christmas 1968 when he and his wife Jean presented a Shropshire turkey on behalf of the British Turkey Federation to the Prime Minister of the day Harold Wilson.

Children's party held in the canteen of the Coalbrookdale Works in 1953. This photo was loaned by Kelvin Crawford of Coalbrookdale, who says nearest the camera on the right is John Watkiss, who married the niece of Ironbridge coracle man Eustace Rogers.

Winter Memories

It tickled Ken Dodd to turn on the Whitchurch Christmas lights back in 1996.

A bustling scene in The Square, Wellington, dating on December 14, 1965, amid some impressive illuminations.

The press room of the Shropshire Star at Ketley, Telford, decked out for Christmas – believed to be around 1970.

Setting a standard in exterior home displays is Tony Rickard's house in Bridgnorth, impressively lit up in 1997.

Mardol, Shrewsbury, with the illuminated name board of the Empire Cinema adding to the colour in the mid 1980s.

Winter Memories

In weather like this, if you're going to venture up The Wrekin, you need to wrap up warm. There is a reward in a splendid view, although on this particular occasion, in the early 1970s, it does not appear to have been the clearest of days.

In the old days you could still get post on Christmas morning. These are postal staff from Minsterley in action, probably on Christmas Day in 1906, as this is a postcard franked in October 1907. The building in the background is probably Minsterley post office. *Picture: Ray Farlow.*

Mrs N. Morris makes sure the mail gets through in the snow at Coalport in December 1967.

Cheers! Soldiers of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry at San Wai Camp, Hong Kong, at Christmas 1950. On the left, marked with a cross and holding up a glass, is Tom Brazier of Trench.

The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge, B2 Ward, Christmas 1953. The decorations had been put up by Nurse Freda Meredith, who is centre, standing by the door at the far end. The woman in the dark top, centre left, is Matron Morgan.

Winter Memories

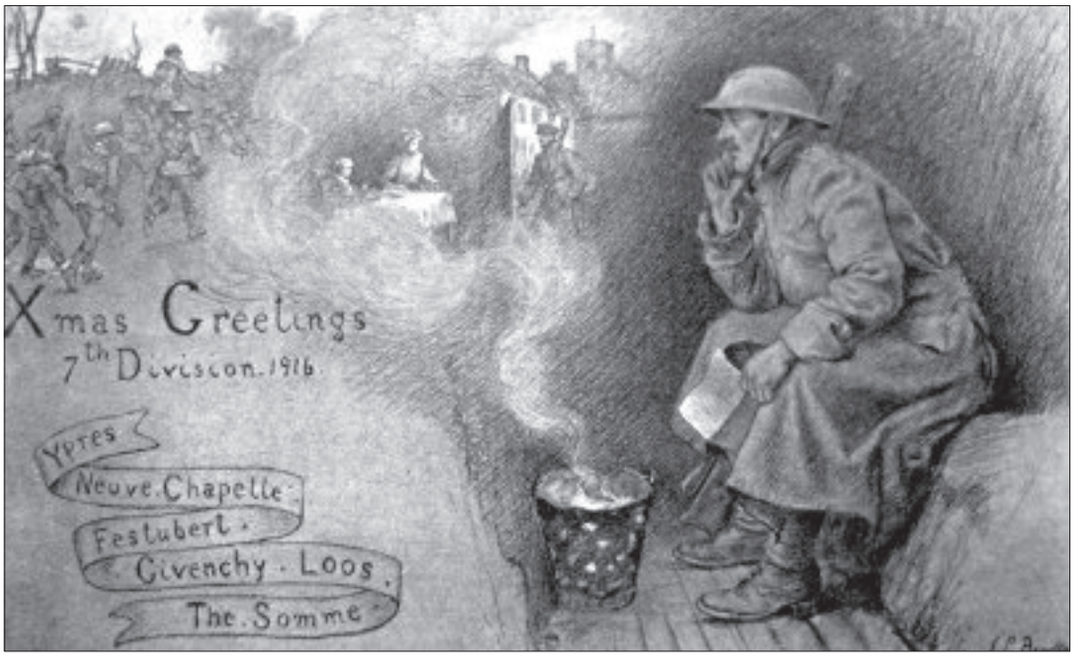
This picture shows a Christmas party at Stoke-on-Tern County Primary School, near Market Drayton, around 1953. It was sent in by Mr A. Minton of Criccieth. He said"My father the late Alfred Minton, who was the caretaker then, can be seen standing at the extreme back, second from left."

Christmas nativity play, thought to be around 1953, in Shrewsbury, possibly featuring children from St Mary's Sunday School.

Ready to eat: This picture shows Camp Donnington, which housed European Voluntary Workers. It was established in 1951.

George Bates is seen with a splendid roof display at Nantgwyn, Rhayader, in 1999.

WINTER MEMORIES



This wartime postcard came from Mrs Felicity Burke, nee Tipton, of Madeley. It is for Christmas Greetings, 7th Division, 1916. The album includes many photos of members of the 4th Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry KSLI in the Far East during World War One but this postcard is clearly not to do with 4th KSLI as they were not in France in 1916

This is believed to be the Nabb Church Christmas Party in the 1950s. The Nabb Mission Church was a tin church on the Nabb, near St Georges

Cubs of 2nd Wellington visited Wrekin Hospital to sing carols to the patients are, from left, Ian Pendlebury, Trevor Brice, David Corbett, Simon Stubbs and Martin Davies, with patient Mrs A. Phaysey, of Oakengates, and her daughter, Mrs W. Meredith.' Picture taken in December, 1967, by Derek Schofield

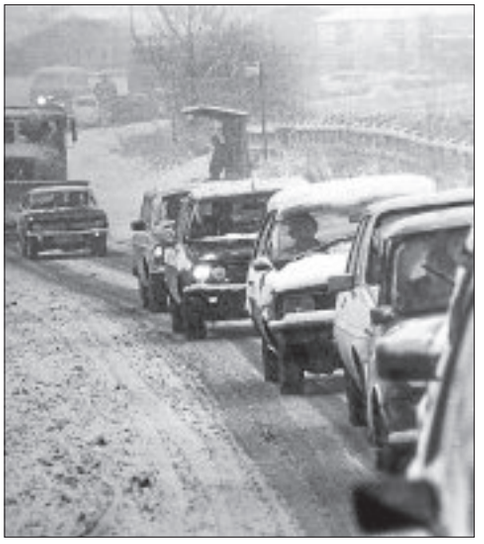
Ludlow. The Christmas staff party in the early 1960s of J P Wood & Sons (Poultry) Ltd, of Craven Arms, taking place in Ludlow Town Hall. In the foreground is Basil Cullum, marketing director,with his wife Joan. The picture was sent in by J Patrick Wood, of Church Stretton

Morda. A snow plough clears the Morda to Trefonen road during the harsh winter of December 1981. The picture was taken on December 29

Winter Memories

Alan Painter outside Maddox store in Shrewsbury dropping off Father Christmas in the late 1960s. Girl unidentified. The car is a 1903 Clement. Picture from the Frank Painter Collection loaned by Shrewsbury transport historian Roy Pilsbury.

Beards away for Ray Hulse, Bridgnorth's long-serving Santa, in 1996. Ray has clocked up nearly 50 years as Santa.



1981 was a harsh winter as this pic of cars battling up the A49 between Bayston Hill and Shrewsbury shows.

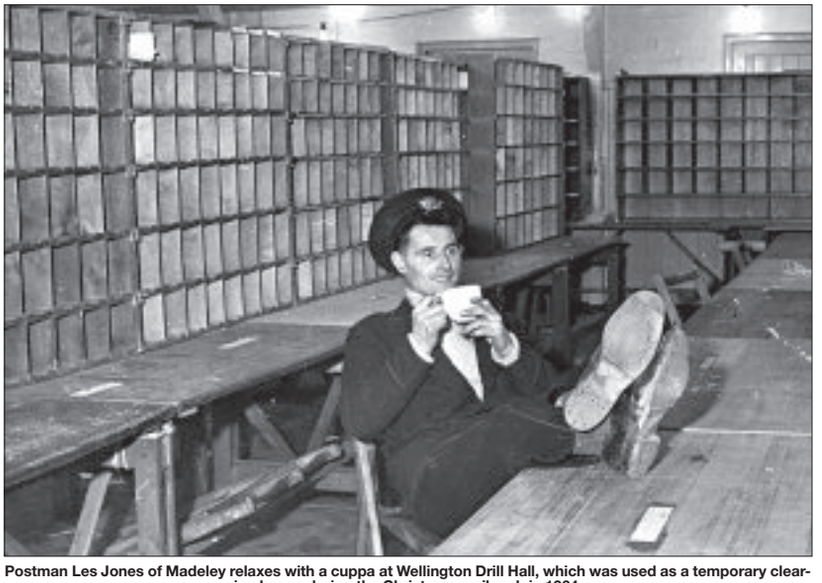
Christmas party for children of those who worked at Kemberton Colliery near Shifnal. Believed to date from 1959 or 1960.

Publicity shot showing the cast of A Christmas Carol which was filmed in Shrewsbury in the early 1980s. Centre is George C. Scott as Ebenezer Scrooge; top left is Susannah York as Mrs Cratchit; lower left is Roger Rees as Fred Holywell; top right is David Warner as Bob Cratchit; and lower right is Frank Finlay as Marley's Ghost.

Winter Memories

There was no match for Shrewsbury Town on this day: a snowbound Gay Meadow pictured in December 1967.

Here's a surprise visit to cherish. Some lucky youngsters already have their gifts, while a whole stack is still waiting to be handed out in the background. Mark Griffiths, of High Ercall, who loaned us this photo, says it was in 1970 or 1971. It was either in Cheswardine village hall, or the Sankey's children's Christmas party in Hadley. "What I do know is that I am third from the right of Father Christmas, with shorts and matching jacket."



Postman Les Jones of Madeley relaxes with a cuppa at Wellington Drill Hall, which was used as a temporary clearing house during the Christmas mail rush in 1964.

Beautiful Larden Hall, near Much Wenlock, was, unbelievably, demolished in the 1960s. The postcard message was: "Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us all." The card was posted in 1912.

The Christmas tree at Presteigne looks remarkably bare in this shot, although there may be a logical explanation. The photo dates from January 1968 - so the decorations and lights had probably all been taken down.

Snow came early in 1972. This fall on or about November 18 in the Market Drayton area provided an early taste of the festive season.

Happy families up on the hill

DOWN YOUR STREET

with Ben Bentley

DECKING . . . per square mile there is perhaps more decking on Bronybuckley, Welshpool, than at an entire B&Q warehouse.

And it's no wonder – built into a hillside so steep even the postman is seen puffing and spluttering, ingenious residents unable to level their land have resorted building their gardens on stilts.

For the kids you might say it's more of a level playing field. And there are kids about, or on a quiet morning when they are all at school, at least there is evidence of them.

On decking, there are bicycles, footballs, basket ball hoops, even Wendy houses built onto decking platforms.

I follow the sound of wood clattering, hammering and the whir of a power drill. Here's one I made earlier, perhaps?

Near enough. Resident Paul Martin is making a gate. "I'm making a gate for a mate," he says, poetically.

"I need some work doing on my car and he does cars, so I'm making a gate and he will do my car."

Fantastic. A trade-swap bartering system. It's like it was before money existed, and at a time when around the UK most people haven't got any anyway, it's not a bad model to use to get us out of this economical pickle.

I spot, down an entry, two ladies, one either side of their shared garden wall, nattering away, cups of tea in hand. On closer inspection, they are sitting down – both on garden chairs pulled up to the wall.

Now, it should be noted that is now winter. It's not particularly warm. But that doesn't deter neighbours Marion Richards and Carol Pugh from chatting over the wall.

Chat

"We do it every morning," says Carol. "Do you want a cup of tea, love?" I sit down and join in.

"I used to go over the wall for a chat, but we are both disabled now so we just sit on chairs on our own side and talk," explains Carol.

"We put the world to rights," adds Marion. "We talk about anything – whether the other is going shopping or not, maybe." They even do one another's shopping.

"If Carol is going, she might do a bit for me," says Marion. "And another neighbour will ask if I want anything if she is going," adds Carol. "We all do a bit for each other." It's certainly happyland up here on the hill.

At least judging by residents' lack of urgency to move house. You won't find TV's house-moving expert Kirstie Allsopp round these parts. "I have lived here for 64 years, since I was five years old in 1945," says Marion.

"I have been here 52 years in this house, but before I was married I lived at the bottom of Bronybuckley, so I've lived on the street for, ooh, 69 years!" adds Carol.

Which, if my Bronybuckley maths is correct, means that they have put in 133 years' service to the same street.

"It's lovely here," says Marion. "Look at that view." She looks out across the valley. The town below in the foreground may have seen some changes but the Welsh Hills beyond stare back as timeless as a pair of dears chatting across a garden wall. Such is their friendliness and willingness to chat, however, that their cups of tea have gone cold.

"Don't worry about that," says Carol, "the kettle is going on again in a minute!"

Over the road, Angela Williams is feeling the effects of a botox injection for her neurological condition called dystonia which causes her muscles to spasm. But proudly she shows me a photograph of her taking part in a recent sponsored walk for Shropshire dystonia sufferer Joanne Day. It was a sponsored dog walk. Problem was, Angela didn't have a dog.

"So we went to the charity shop and bought these," she says, producing two stuffed fluffy pooches, "and carried them round." Dogged determination, I think it's called.

But Angela is another one who has stayed put on Bronybuckley, having lived here 33 years.

Oh, and another fantastic 'old fashioned' thing – resident Kelly Bowen has four generations of the same family living on the street. And here's me thinking that sort of thing only happened in the 1920s. Or on Bread.

She also reveals how the street's washing lines were targeted by the prolific phantom knicker-stealer whose underwear antics hit the headlines over the past weeks.

There has been a programme recently called That's Britain, bemoaning the traditions we have lost and campaigning to bring some of them back.

They should come to Bronybuckley. They'd have a series-worth of material in the time it takes to put the kettle on and have a natter over the garden wall.

Kelly Bowen of Bronybuckley.

Pull up a chair – Neighbours Marion Richards and Carol Pugh have a good old natter over the wall.

Angela Williams has been raising awareness – and funds – for dystonia sufferers.

Generous shoppers give £520 to hospice

SHOPPERS have put their hands in their pockets to help raise cash for Hope House Children's Hospice – after it was revealed individual donations to the charity had plummeted by a third this year.

Staff at Oswestry supermarket Morrisons held a fundraising event for the hospice, based in Morda, after hearing that individual donations had dropped drastically. They held a collection and a bag pack which helped to raise £520.

A spokesman from Morrisons, said: "We thought wouldn't it be nice to do something for the charity as we saw it needed more donations. The charity is also local to the store.

"We weren't expecting to raise as much as we did. We have also given the charity more than 30 selection boxes for the children.

"Morrisons Oswestry would like to thank all their customers very much for their donations."

The fundraiser took place throughout last week and staff volunteered their own time, either before or after their normal working shift, for the event.

To donate visit www.hope-house.org.uk

Pupils see top teams

STUDENTS from The Marches School, Oswestry, recently visited the Echo Arena in Liverpool to watch the top six netball teams in the world play in the World Series Finals.

The group watched four action packed games including the highlight of the event, England versus Jamaica. Some students had their programmes autographed by the Fiji team.

Sparkling display at unit wins challenge

CARE HOME residents have won a Christmas competition after decorating their unit with sparkles and paper chains.

The 14 residents of the Poppy Unit at Fairholme, Morda Road, Oswestry, spent a week putting up decorations in their lounge. They dressed the tree and made their own decorations as well.

This is the second year the home has held the competition for the best decorated lounge and operations manager Mary Langdown was asked to judge.

The Poppy unit was chosen because it was vibrant and had the best use of colour.

Denise Morris, the manager, said: "It was really good for them to take part and the residents really enjoyed it.

"It is nice to have a bit of healthy competition between the units."

The winners were given a box of chocolates.

In October this year leader of Shropshire Council Keith Barrow, mayor of Oswestry Councillor Cynthia Hawksley and David Coull, the chief executive of Coverage Care, broke the ground for a new care Home to be built in Shrewsbury Road.

The new home will be a replacement for the building in Morda Road which was opened in April 1963.

It is hoped the new Fairholme will open in April 2013.

Magic of reality is that all of life is connected

ON THE WILD SIDE

with Ben Waddams

FOR some of you, one of the presents waiting under the tree this Christmas may well have been book shaped.

One of my favourite books of recent time is Richard Dawkins' wonderful The Magic of Reality.

The Magic of Reality deals with popular childhood myths from different cultures. The fact that some of these myths persist into adulthood makes the book as interesting, relevant and important for adults as it does children. But since it's written with youngsters primarily in mind, Dawkins offers his readers a chance to travel back with him in time using 'thought experiments' to pave the way to the origin of the myth, the person involved, or even, time itself.

I don't want to spoil anyone's festive musings, but there was one particular thought experiment that struck a chord with me, and I'd like to share it briefly with you. Take a photograph of yourself and place it on a bookshelf. Then take a photo of your father (or mother) and grandfather (or grandmother) and do the same. Root around in the family archives and add a photo of your great grandfather to the horizontal stack of pictures on the bookshelf.

How long would the bookshelf be if we filed each photo in order all the way back to our early origins? About three miles long is the answer, if every photograph measured about a millimetre in thickness. And how many photos would be packed next to each other? One hundred and eighty five million.

If we walked down the line pulling out photos systematically, we wouldn't see a noticeable difference between each one of course, or even between stacks of 1000 or so. Every great grandfather looks like the one immediately next to it and belongs to the same species. Yet if you walk down the bookshelf you will see some photos that look like apes, some that look like monkeys, some that look like shrews and so on. Each one is like its neighbours, but if you pick one out far enough away from another, you will see a very big difference indeed. And believe it or not, your 185 million great grandfather was a fish. As Dawkins writes; '…and so was your 185 million great grandmother, which is just as well, or they couldn't have mated with each other and you wouldn't be here.' Of course this is all laid out for us in the fossil record, whether some of us chose to look at it or not, and the truth of the matter is that all life is related.

When we hear the famous BandAid song 'Do they know it's Christmas', one line reminds us that 'the greatest gift they'll get this year is life'. The reason the song did so well for Geldof and co. was the fact that we humans feel guilty when our fellow homo sapiens are revealed to be in trouble.

But we are all related; fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers, African tribes, apes, rodents, newts, fish. So let's spare a thought for our fellow creatures this winter. We can start in the garden.

The greatest gift our sparrows, finches, robins and thrushes will get this year is life.

But some seed and nuts will be greatly appreciated too!

In the Bleak Midwinter – Fieldfare 2011 by Ben Waddams.

Grievance delays by force are criticised

DYFED-POWYS Police have been criticised by a police watchdog for taking too long to record complaints.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission said Dyfed-Powys's performance last year was poor compared to the other three Welsh forces.

Figures show that in 42 per cent of cases Dyfed-Powys took more than 10 working days to record a complaint compared to a UK average of 13 per cent.

The force said it had since changed the way complaints were recorded.

The IPCC has published the complaint statistics for police forces in Wales and England for 2010/11 and said they showed 'a generally good picture in Wales' except for Dyfed-Powys.

It also said the time taken by Dyfed-Powys to finalise complaint cases increased last year to 147 working days, 40 working days longer than the average.

Tom Davies, the IPCC commissioner for Wales, said: "These figures are disappointing and I have met with the force on a number of occasions to discuss their performance statistics and the need to improve their performance at dealing with complaints."

In a statement the force said since last year's figures were recorded it had introduced a new computerised system which had significantly improved performance.

Classical concert

A MUSIC recital of Bach and Brahms music will be held in Whittington Parish Church, at Easter.

The concert will feature international soloists James Barralet on cello and pianist Simon Callaghan.

Interest in the concert on March 23 is expected to be high.

Tickets are £12 but Whittington residents can buy reduced price tickets for £9 until January 31.

Tickets are available by calling (01691) 657986 or e-mailing whittingtonmusic@btinternet.com

Residents calling for town to get facelift

THE PEOPLE of Oswestry want to see more facilities for young people, more shops and a general facelift for the town.

The community group, Oswestry 21, took a video camera into the town centre recently to ask local people what their wish for Oswestry for 2012 would be.

Teenagers said they wanted an ice-rink, a cinema, bowling alley, a decent nightclub and more fast food outlets with some young people saying they also wanted happiness for those living in the town.

Community support officer, Dave Wagg said: "I would like to see the railway come back into the town it would bring people in."

Others interviewed for the Oswestry 21 website said they wanted to see more for young people .

Some families said they wanted more parks and playgrounds for youngsters.

Oswestry Town Council is currently looking to revamp its playground in Cae Glas Park. Councillors are looking at five different designs for an extended park using a range of modern play equipment.

Funding for the new playground will come from Section 106 planning agreements and from the Every Child A Talker programme which encourages childrens learning through play.

Councillors in vow over community

PARISH COUNCILLORS near Oswestry have vowed to do more next year in a bid to bring the community together – and are asking for the public's help to make it possible.

The pledge has been made by members of Selattyn and Gobowen Parish Council.

Parish clerk Penny O'Hagan said the council wanted to hear ideas from the public about what events they wanted to see staged during 2012.

She said: "Following the success of the fun day held last August and the Rose Queen Fete, the parish council would like to hold some more community events during 2012 on the playing fields. In order to do this we need not only ideas from local people on what sort of events the community wants and also help from volunteers to organise events and help run them on the day.

"Ideas currently being considered include holding a community fun day to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in June and organising a bonfire and fireworks display in November."

People with ideas or who would like to help organise events should call (01691) 682683.

Lace focus for group

THE NEXT meeting of the Oswestry and District branch of the Embroideries' Guild will be based on the subject of lace.

The group meets at Oswestry Memorial Hall on the second Friday of every month at 7.30pm.

The next event will be on January 12 and will be with Pat Matthews, an experienced lacemaker, embroider and quilter.

Pat will be assisted by fellow lacemaker Ailsa McGregor.

On December 9 the members had an evening of crafts making decorations and Christmas cards.

GOLD & SILVER WANTED
ANY CONDITION
INSTANT CASH PAID
AND WE OFFER 50% EXTRA IN PART EXCHANGE
J A WOODROFFE
Trading in Shrewsbury for over 30 years
61 Mardol, Shrewsbury 01743 235673
2 Market Street, Newtown 01686 628365

SHROPSHIRE BLINDS & AWNINGS
Buy direct from Shropshire's only Manufacturer of all types of blinds
• VERTICAL
• VENETIAN
• WOODEN VENETIANS
• CONSERAVTORY BLINDS
• ROLLERS
• PATIO AWNINGS & SUN CANOPIES
Free estimates, Everything guaranteed
HUGE DISCOUNTS / CASH & CARRY
Showroom: 41 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Nr English Bridge
Tel: (01743 850111)
Oswestry 01691 829444 shropshireblinds.co.uk Telford 01952 246868
Energy Saver Blinds

SimplyBaby
Shropshire's Pushchair & Car Seat Specialist
Huge Range On Display!
Free Parking, Product Demos & Car Seat Fitting Bay.
COSATTO JOOLZ RECARO
01743 453 942
38C Vanguard Way, Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury SY1 3TG

BRIDGNORTH TOY & MODEL Collectors Fair
Sunday 1st January
at BRIDGNORTH LEISURE CENTRE HIGH TOWN WV16 4ER
10.30am-3.30pm Admission £2.00
100 + stalls Buying and Selling Model Railways, Dinky, Corgi, Teddy Bears, Dolls, Tin Plate, Soldiers, Transport, Books and all Collectable Toys. Toys and Models Bought, Sold & Exchanged
FREE VALUATIONS
Enquiries Tony Oakes on (01270) 841558

Tea party raises cup to success of group

A TEA PARTY has been held to celebrate the success of a Shropshire voluntary youth group which has gone from strength to strength in recent months.

Oswestry Youth Cafe held the party to thank everyone involved in raising funds for the project. The group offers vital support to young people aged nine to 19.

The Oswald Road cafe is equipped with access to internet, pool, Xbox, gaming and creative art sessions.

Volunteers have completed a range of activities to help raise funds to support the group. In July five people took part in an abseil at Oswestry Fire Station raising £738.

A charity quiz and Indian banquet hosted by restaurateur George Miah at the Simla Indian restaurant raised a further £822.

Vouchers

The quiz was matched funded by Barlays Bank to the tune of £750. In addition to this Sainsbury's in Oswestry have donated £500 in vouchers to provide items for the festive activities.

Funding and facility manager Ian Wilson said: "I joined the team at Oswestry Youth Cafe in June with the specific task of raising the funds to ensure the cafe remained at the forefront of youth provision in the town. I am blown away with the support the volunteers and local businesses provide.

"We are really fortunate that youth cafe is supported by Oswestry Borderland Rotary and that their members take an active role in advising the group.

"Thanks to everybody's hard work these funds will help us provide additional activities and support our operational overheads. We are confident that we can sustain our present offer until June 2012 and have a number of applications in the pipeline."

King of castle job was a dream come true for Sue

NOT MANY people can say they are in charge of a castle but that is exactly what Sue Ellis does for a living – and she loves it.

The 46-year-old grew up in Oswestry and has always had an interest in the local community, as well as a love of history.

She attended Beach Grove School and Croeswylan School in the town before heading off to King Alfred's College in Winchester to study for a degree in History and Drama.

She thought she was to become a teacher but by the end of the course she realised it was not for her and instead she moved back to Oswestry. She has been working in the town ever since.

WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE
with Graham Breeze

Today she is manager of Whittington Castle and loves it, despite the long hours and hard work. She feels as if the job was designed especially for her.

But it took a while for her to reach her dream job.

She said: "When you grow up people ask you 'what do you want to be when you are older' and some say train driver or police constable or castle manager.

"It is something I love and I wouldn't trade it for anything else. It is a lot of hours and sometimes overnight with the ghost tours."

But Sue didn't just fall into her job, it took years of hard work which first started when she worked at Mile End Tourism Centre in 1990. Then in 1994 she became the supervisor of the town's heritage centre and helped to develop and improve it.

Visitors

When she started it only received about 2,000 to 3,000 visitors a year but when she left they were receiving about 12,000 to 13,000 people.

She also helped to arrange events including an evacuee reunion and a second world war festival, Operation Homefront, in Cae Glas Park. In 2007 she saw her job at Whittington Castle advertised and was given the role shortly after.

She said: "The job combined my love of history and tourism and seemed to be made for me."

Sue said it is hard nowadays for people to get their dream job and offers the advice that taking on voluntary roles in people's desired sector is extremely valuable.

She said the castle already welcomes youngsters to take part in work experience and volunteer for regular dramas.

"I think these days it is more difficult to get your dream job," she said.

"People have to volunteer and it is quite a valuable thing on the CV.

"You have to follow what you want to do and be persistent. There are jobs out there but it is tricky."

Sue's love of history has now spread into her free time and she is researching into her own family's past.

Here she has discovered she comes from a long line of strong women which has become an inspiration for her own life.

Sue's other pastimes include being a director in the Oswestry Borderland Tourism Group.

She said: "I love Oswestry and I am proud to help support the tourism in the area."

For more information about Whittington Castle visit www.whittingtoncastle.co.uk

She really loves her job – manager of Whittington Castle, Sue Ellis

Rotary club upbeat at £19,000 pot for charity

OSWESTRY ROTARY Club has provided almost £19,000 to charities and good causes in the past year with more than half the money awarded to local organisations.

Officers say the club is having a real and positive impact on the town of Oswestry. The club elected John Ward to succeed Mike Jones as president of the Rotary Club of Oswestry at its recent meeting.

Mr Ward, who was the inaugural president of the daughter club Oswestry Borderland will take up his duties at the start of the new Rotary year in July 2012. He has a farming and agricultural consulting background.

At the same meeting, club treasurer David Gordon gave an upbeat assessment of the club's financial performance in 2010/2011.

Fun-filled pie tours on offer at castle

MINCE PIE tours are being held at Whittington Castle over the festive season.

The castle is open all year and between Christmas and new year visitors will get the chance to go on a guided tour of the historic building and grounds.

The tours started yesterday, Wednesday, and run until New Year's Eve from 12noon and on Saturday it will start at 2pm.

Gap

For £5 visitors get a tour as well as a piece of cake or mince pie and a drink from the castle tearoom.

Sue Ellis, castle manager, said: "It is a great chance to get out for a walk, stretch your legs after all your Christmas festivities as that gap between Christmas and New Year can often leave you wondering what to do."

For more information call (01691) 662500.

Wrong panto proves a hit

THE FINAL week of term at Rhyn Park School and Performing Arts College at St Martins near Oswestry saw students perform to sell-out audiences.

The two-night production showcased the enormous talents of students in music, song and drama.

This year staff and students performed 'The Wrong Panto'; a collaboration of all the well-known pantos into one.

Church boosted

A VILLAGE church near Oswestry will be £365 better off thanks to a successful coffee morning. The event for Whittington Parish Church was held on December 2 at the village's Senior Citizens Hall.

Warning to avoid risky fake make-up

CONSUMERS IN the Welshpool area are being warned by Powys County Council about counterfeit make-up which has been found to have high levels or potentially dangerous lead content.

The warning has been issued by the council's Trading Standards Service, who enforce the law covering counterfeit goods to ensure Powys is not flooded by fakes.

Recent operations conducted by the service, in partnership with brand holders from the make-up industry, has highlighted some large seizures of make-up which has been confirmed to be counterfeit.

Testing of some of the make-up has shown some have lead levels above limits set in the Cosmetic Product Regulations, putting potential users subject to or at risk of skin complaints.

Cllr Geraint Hopkins, cabinet member for Environment and Regulation, said: "Our Trading Standards Service does a fantastic job in stopping fakes being sold in the area and fully deserved their Anti Counterfeiting Group 2010 Awards for the Best Department in Britain in protecting consumers and our traders.

"Fakes which have safety problems rack this matter up even higher and it demonstrates how important our work is in protecting residents who maybe tempted to buy counterfeit goods without realising they could be in danger if they put these products on their bodies.

"We are warning residents to avoid these products as they are illegal so don't be tempted."

Clive Jones, the council's principal trading standards officer, said: "We always say don't buy fakes and this issue shows why we say it."

Youngsters take up college scheme for apprenticeships

YOUNGSTERS from the Oswestry area have joined the horticultural apprenticeship scheme at Walford and North Shropshire College.

Jonny Howard from Ellesmere and James French from Oswestry were interested in working in horticulture and both preferred a more practical, hands on approach to learning. Both also wanted to earn money and gain valuable work experience whilst training for recognised qualifications so opted to join the apprenticeship programme offered by the Walford Training department of the College.

by Graham Breeze

Despite their many similarities, which also include both having future ambitions to gain full time employment within the horticultural industry, each apprentice has chosen a very different pathway.

Jonny, a school leaver has chosen the general horticulture pathway. He chose this route because he was particularly interested in working in grounds and gardens.

James, a mature apprentice who says his main motivation for choosing work-based training was to enhance his skills and make himself more employable, has chosen the sports turf pathway.

Evidence

During their time on the programme the apprentices are assigned a placement officer who visits them at regular intervals; every 6-8 weeks, to assess them in practical skills at work.

Roger Sorsby, Placement Officer for the Walford Training Department of Walford and North Shropshire College said: "College links with work by helping the students put together a portfolio of evidence for the qualification and teaches them the theory behind tasks carried out at work.

"This in turn helps them to understand better the results they are trying to achieve."

For more information about Apprenticeships at Walford and North Shropshire College please visit our website at www.wnsc.ac.uk or telephone Walford Training on 01939 262131

Ian Morris, head groundsman, Jonny Howard apprentice, Roger Sorsby Assessor/Placement Officer in the grounds of Ellesemere College.

Heritage trains a hit in season

RAIL ENTHUSIASTS have flocked to a heritage railway near the Shropshire border in large numbers despite the gloomy economic climate, according to organisers.

Llangollen Railway has reported another successful pre-Christmas season with passenger numbers for the Santa Special trains holding up well.

Almost all of the 47 Santa trains which have operated since November 25 have been fully booked. George Jones, from the railway, said: "It would seem that family groups remain determined to come to Llangollen to see Santa on the steam train.

"Our support for this annual event comes from a 50-mile catchment area drawing people in from a wide segment of England, as well as North Wales, and the visitors provide a welcome boost to the town in mid-winter."

A series of Mince Pie Special trains will operate on the Dee Valley Line until Monday with three trains a day, departing Llangollen at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. The steam trains take visitors into what can be a winter wonderland on the journey through to Carrog when mince pies and mulled wine are served to passengers as festive cheer.

Mr Jones said: "It is thanks to all our volunteers that these trains run and we can provide entertainment for those who wish to sample a ride on a preserved railway which operates from an acclaimed World Heritage site."

League of Friends

THE LEAGUE of Friends to The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital ran a three day fundraising event in aid of the League of Friends charity at the new Morrisons store in Wrexham.

More than 2,000 people visited a display by the league for the hospital, at Gobowen, near Oswestry.

New chef

Appointed Andrea Birch

HENLLE PARK Golf Club has appointed Mrs Andea Birch as Head Chef.

She was formerly at the Battlefield Farm Restaurant, Shrewsbury, and prior to that The Burlton Arms, Cockshutt.

Solicitors' firm present at school careers session

STAFF AT Lanyon Bowdler in Oswestry represented the legal profession at the recent Llanfyllin High School careers convention.

Alan Gittins and Emma Wilde, partners from the commercial and agricultural department, senior solicitor Caroline Yorke from the matrimonial department and Kate Lawson assistant solicitor from the private client department, all took part in the event.

The aim of the day was to provide advice on the various routes into the legal profession and the options available to pupils wishing to pursue a career in the law.

For those keen on finding out more, the convention provided an opportunity to seek the opinions of local solicitors regarding matters such as what A-levels to take, the grades required, which universities have a good reputation for law degrees and where the Legal Practice Course can be completed.

NEWS in brief

Appeal for wool to help charity

WOOL, PLASTIC knitting needles and plastic sewing needles are needed to help people create items for charity.

The Border Angels Knitting Group has started to appeal for these items to help them knit squares which will be turned into blankets.

A spokesman for the charity said: "The reason for them being plastic is that we send everything as 'knitted squares – no commercial value, for charity' which ladies in South Africa stitch together to make blankets. If the scanners pick up anything metal they may open and confiscate the parcel, or charge duty which the charity can't afford."

Plastic needles can be found in craft shops for children to use. For more information about knitting for good causes contact Pam Johnson on (01691) 658032, e-mail pam.johnson3@virgin.net or visit www.knit-a-square.com

Pupils raise £730 for BBC appeal

PUPILS have raised hundreds of pounds for charity after taking part in sponsored activities.

Youngsters from Adcote School, in Little Ness, have announced they raised nearly £730 for Children in Need. The cash has been counted after taking part in a non-uniform day, a sponsored swim and a cake sale.

A spokesman for the school said: "Well done to all the girls for such a tremendous effort."

Fitness classes

ZUMBA classes are being held in West Felton. The sessions are being run on Wednesdays in the Village Hall from 8pm until 9pm. It costs £4 per session. Call Amanda on (01939) 261039 or 07535 706337 or visit the website www.zumbawithamanda.com

With cover for medical conditions wherever possible*

For a no-obligation quote, visit:
Age Concern Shropshire Telford & Wrekin (Shropshire)
3 Mardol Gardens, Shrewsbury
Shropshire SY1 1PR

ageUK
The new force combining Age Concern and Help the Aged

0800 032 9412^
or visit www.ageuk.org.uk/travelinsurance

AGE Concern

Travel Insurance is provided by Ageas Insurance Limited
*Subject to medical screening and acceptance by the underwriters.
^If you call the 0800 number above, you will be contacting your local office; if outside their opening hours you will be directed to Ageas' customer service centre.
Age UK Enterprises Limited is a commercial services arm of Age UK (registered charity number 1128267) and donates its net profits to Age UK. Age UK is a registered trademark. The use of the name and logo 'Age UK' is done so under licence agreement between Age UK and Age UK Enterprises Limited.
Promoter: Age UK Enterprises Limited, Tavis House, 1- 6 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9NA. T2405V2AUG11
MP_SL_001188_11

Shalimar Special!
Ideal For Couples / Families & Special Occasions
Small / Large Parties Catered For
Choose from our extensive menu for both offers

3-Course Meal
Popadum & Chutney / Any Starter / Choice of any Main Meal
With a choice of Rice / Chips or Nan Bread (Unless already included in meal)
Available 7 days a week – only £9.95 per person!

Shalimar '2-Person' Special!
3-Course Meal
With the choice of a Bottle of House Wine
(Choose either Red / Rose or White wine per 2 people or alternatively alcoholic drinks or soft drinks up to the total value of £7.95)
Popadum & Chutney / Any Starter / Choice of any Main Meal
With a choice of Rice / Chips or Nan Bread (Unless already included in meal)
Available 7 days a week – only £27.95 per two people

For table reservations please call – (01743) 366658
Open: Sun – Thurs: 5.30pm – Midnight / Fri & Sat: 5.30pm – 1.00am
23 Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury SY2 6AE
www.shalimarshrewsbury.co.uk
Both offers are for seated diners only. Including Bank Holidays. Not to be combined with any other offer. The decision of the Shalimar Restaurant is final.

Free quotes
NO pressure!
MATTHEW & PEART LIMITED
10% OFF ALL ORDERS PLACED IN DECEMBER

WINDOWS > CONSERVATORIES > DOORS
30 years experience with a reputation built on excellence...

MATTHEWS & PEART
ARCHERS WAY
BATTLEFIELD
ENTERPRISE PARK
SHREWSBURY
SY1 3GA
tel: 01743 460900
www.matthewsandpeart.co.uk

Santa visits museum

SANTA VISITED Oswestry Transport Museum and he is seen with David Higman, curator of the museum. Santa's grotto was opened so that children could visit and receive presents.

Teens' Facebook quest

A YOUTH group in a village in Shropshire, which has suffered from a lack of facilities for youngsters in recent years, is on the hunt for more friends.

The Green Room youth project in Gobowen has set up a Facebook site and aims to get 100 friends by the New Year.

The drop-in project runs on Wednesday evenings at the village's Pavilion on St Martins Road between 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

Volunteer Justin Cliffe attended recent sessions and has now set up a Facebook site under the name of Green Room Gobowen.

He said: "We have set a goal of getting 100 friends by 2012.

"I hope young people join up as it is a simple method of sending out updates about what we are doing each week and reminding young people to drop in.

"It is early days for the group and we need young people to take part and make use of what is on offer."

Community leaders have welcomed the introduction of the Green Room particularly because Gobowen lost its former Silo Central youth centre three years ago because of funding problems.

Meeting point

Various attempts had been made to establish a new meeting point for Gobowen youngsters but they too failed because of financial problems and concerns about some of the children's behaviour.

Paul Drury, chairman of the youth group, said the volunteers would continue to develop the new service in the village.

He said: "We have involved the young people in setting up the group and worked with pupils at Rhyn Park School to find out what they want us to provide for them.

"Over the summer we held five sessions at the Pavilion and a community play day to help us consult with young people.

"Feedback from them was that they wanted a place to meet friends, play pool and other games and have access to snacks and drinks.

"As a committee we were pleased that we could provide this from the Pavilion and we feel that we can continue to develop the group over the winter.

"We have recently recruited an experienced youth worker to work with our volunteers to support the weekly sessions.

"Claire Pritchard will be looking at ways to communicate and inform young people about what is available and will be out and about in the village talking to young people."

Group for over 60s

OLDER people who live in Gobowen and Hengoed near Oswestry are being urged to go along to a group especially set up for them.

Gobowen Old Friends Association meets every third Thursday in the month at the village's parish church hall.

The group also has a full day outing three times a year or a half-day outing followed by tea and entertainment at the church hall.

Membership is open to residents of Hengoed and Gobowen who are aged 60 or older.

Appeal begins for Evie-Lou

BALLOONS were launched above Oswestry to help raise funds for what could be a life-saving operation for a four-year-old girl.

Evie-Lou Harrington suffers from cerebral palsy and is unable to stand or walk.

Parents Paul Harrington and Donna Henderson, of Dolhendre, Llangynog, near Oswestry, want their daughter to have a special £30,000 operation to improve her mobility.

On December 23 about 100 balloons sold to well-wishers and passers-by were released in Oswestry's Cae Glas park to support the appeal for Evie-Lou.

About 30 people looked on as the balloons floated away.

The event was made possible with help from local company Happy House Helium.

Evie-Lou was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of 20 months when her parents became increasingly concerned about her slow development.

Her mum said: "It was very wet for the balloon launch but quite a few people turned up and we raised £172."

Evie-Lou's mum said her daughter's diagnosis came as a blow.

She said: "I knew nothing about cerebral palsy and wasn't at all prepared. I had to scan the internet for as much information as I could find and have now identified an operation called selective dorsal rhizotomy.

"This is not a cure, it's a neurosurgical technique used to treat spasticity and provide increased muscle tone in the lower limbs.

"She has just started at Ysgol Penant in Penybontfawr and everyone there has taken her to their hearts and are so helpful.

"The sad thing is that neither the operation nor the physiotherapy are available on the NHS, which is why we have launched the appeal."

The family has started fundraising and wristbands are on sale.

A ladies night is being planned at The Ironworks in Oswestry and bag packing sessions are under way at supermarkets.

Go online to the website www.justgiving.com/treeofhope/donate to lend your support.

Pre-school gets fresh new look

FAMILIES in Gobowen with pre-school age children have been given an open invitation to have a look around a newly revamped village service.

Gobowen All Rounders has new staff and a new fresh look. As well as providing pre-school sessions for children aged two to four during the school term, it also provides a breakfast club from 7.45am for primary school age children.

Breakfast club children receive cereal or toast with either water or milk to drink. Children attending Gobowen School are walked across to school at 8.45am.

Pre-school sessions start at 9am. Children are entitled to 15 hours government funded nursery education per week starting the beginning of the term after their third birthday.

Families who wish to have a look around or who want a handbook and registration form can drop into Gobowen All Rounders during the school term time.

BUYology all your needs at microscopic prices

DISCOUNT STORE SHREWSBURY

50% OFF ALL CHRISTMAS STOCK

UP TO 50% OFF SELECTED TOYS

UP TO 50% OFF ALL GIFT SETS

HUGE SAVINGS THROUGHOUT FURNITURE RANGE - LIMITED PERIOD ONLY

Buyology would like to wish all of their customers a Happy New Year in 2012!

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

29th & 30th December 9 am-7 pm, 31st December 9 am-4.30 pm,
1st January Closed, 2nd January 10 am-5 pm , 3rd-6th January 9 am-7 pm, 7th January 9 am-6 pm, 8th January 10 am-4 pm

BUYology all your needs at microscopic prices

Ex. B+Q Store, Brixton Way,
Harlescott, Shrewsbury SY1 3AZ
01743 590 996

NEWS

01691 668094

999 advice handed out to Polish people

WORK WILL be carried out to ensure Oswestry's Polish community know what to do in the event of a fire after a language barrier almost caused a tragedy, it has been revealed.

The move has been prompted after a fire broke out in the early hours of this morning at a house occupied by a Polish man.

Firefighters said neighbours called the fire service because the Polish man did not know what to do. Crews plan to go back to the property today to give out advice and translation sheets.

by Graham Breeze

Firefighters from Oswestry and Chirk attended the incident at Lorne Street at 1.35am this morning.

Watch manager John Davies said: "The gentleman had left a pan on in the kitchen and fallen asleep. Fortunately the property did have working smoke detectors and they went off, alerting the occupant.

"He managed to grab the pan and put it in the sink and then get out of the property so when we go there the fire was out on arrival but the house was heavily smokelogged.

"The bigger worry for us is that the gentleman did not know what to do when the fire started. The call to the fire service actually came from neighbours who heard the smoke detector go off.

"They called us because the occupant did not know who to call.

"We have gone back to the property to hand that over and give out advice. We will also report the matter to our community fire safety team so they can follow it up.

"It is a concern because the house was a terraced property and the fire could have easily spread to other properties.

"Fortunately there was a working smoke detector and the other message from this incident is to ensure everyone has a smoke detector in their homes."

The Lorne Street incident was one of two calls Oswestry firefighters received at the same time. The second was a shed fire at Babbinswood, near Whittington.

Plans to add 10 pitches

A travellers' camp near Oswestry could be extended to make up for a shortage of pitches across the county.

Shropshire Council wants to create up to ten new pitches at the existing Park Hall site.

The council says each new pitch will house one family, with room for a caravan, static mobile home and parking.

"Individual amenity block facilities will provide kitchen, bathroom and daytime living facilities for the residents, to be developed as semi-detached units with independent access from each pitch," the council says in its planning application.

"The site will be designed to take into account more sustainable construction methods and site layouts."

The council, which says there is a shortfall of sites across the county, hopes to determine the application in March.

Series of films to be screened at town theatre

A new programme of films is being shown in Oswestry for the new year.

Kinokulture, a film-screening company, is already organising a number of films to show in the town's Attfield Theatre in the Guildhall on Bailey Head.

On January 7 from 7.30pm it will be showing Super 8, directed by JJ Abrams and produced by Steven Spielberg. Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under 16s.

On January 21 from 7.30pm in the same venue it will be screening A Separation. It has been described as a lively, suspenseful drama that ranges over notions of justice, honour, truth, duty, the status of wives and the impact of secrets and lies on their young daughters.

Tickets cost £5 for adult or £3 for under 16 and can be reserved by calling the Kinokulture box office on 0845 250 0517.

Oswestry and Welshpool livestock markets

OSWESTRY CATTLE AUCTIONS. FAT CATTLE: (77)

A few less cattle forward but not a bad show of quality met a very firm trade. A very mixy show of Bulls, mostly friesians and some very lean. Top slots hit 224p for steers, 212p for Heifers and 204p for bulls.

Highest piece in the lump was £1458 for a steer, bottom book 100p for a plain friesian Bull. An overall market average of 176p was achieved.

Young bulls (34) overall average 138.5p.

Light bulls (11) average 151.5p (£660/head) Selling to 189p from Bronhyddon Farms

Medium bulls (18) average 170.5p (£860/head) selling to 204p from J Edwards Mount Farm

Heavy bulls (5) average 186p (£1170/head) Selling to 195p from J Edwards Mount Farm

Steers (21) average 177p.

Medium steers (6) average 170.5p (£885/head) selling to 96p from J Gittins

Heavy steers (15) average 179p (£1120/head) selling to 224p from Francis Partners Penllwyn

Heifers (22) overall average 186p

Medium heifers (7) average 190p (£860/head) selling to 209p from J W Jones & Partners Pantglas Isa

Heavy heifers (15) average 185p (£975/head) selling to 212p from M&S Jones Lower Forest Farm

A good trade on all cattle throughout. We are open all through Christmas. If you are bringing cattle, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support.

FAT LAMBS: (4,133)

Superlights to 187p average 179p lights to 214p average 199.5p, standards to 216p average 200.5p, mediums to 222p average 197p, heavys to 194p average 187p, others to 193p average 178p. Overall average 199p.

FAT EWES: (789)

Ewes to £108 average £57.50, Rams to £125, average £81

Please note : All sheep entering the market must be tagged.

CALVES: (68)

Quality in short supply selling to a marginally easier trade throughout. Best friesians keenly contested, killers harder to sell. Charolais bulls topping at £310 & £308 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr. British blue bulls to £308 from Messrs Hughes Trench Farm £300 from Messrs Ellis Pentre Wern £290 from Messrs Ward Manor Farm. Limousin bulls to £260 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr £214 from Messrs Williams Lighwood Hall. British blue heifers to £224 from Messrs Hughes Trench Farm. Limousin heifers to £210 from Messrs Jones Morton Farm £200 from Messrs Lloyd Jones Rhydonnen Isaf. Simmental bulls to £212 from Messrs Wainwright The Sycamores. Charolais heifers to £185 from Messrs Pryce Coedmawr. Friesian bulls to £170 from Messrs Ward Manor Farm £145 from Messrs Holland Ashes Farm £84 & £75 from Messrs Charmley Cegid

STORE CATTLE: (83)

A seasonal entry for the last sale of the year met with a slightly slower trade than that seen at recent sales. Top price of the day was £940 (177p/kg) paid for a blonde x heifer aged 24 months sold by A & L C Evans, Machynlleth. 46 steers were forward with notable prices including: £905 (193p/kg) paid for a limousin x steer aged 17 months sold by Hughes Bros, Glyn Ceiriog; £870 (183p/kg) paid for a pair of limousin x steers aged 15 months sold by V & G J Roberts, Overton; 36 heifers were forward with notable prices including: £640 (182p/kg) paid for 5 British Blue x heifers aged 15 months sold by AC & EM Williams, Welshampton; £940 (188p/kg) paid for a charolais x heifer aged 19 months sold by RLG Edwards, Llansantffraid. A small entry of store bulls was topped by 4 charolais x bulls aged 7-8 months sold by DE Wilde, Middletown for £695 (182p/kg).

Entries are invited for our next sale to be held on he January 11. We would like to thank all store cattle vendors and buyers for their support during 2011.

U72 & CULL COWS: (57)

A good entry of 57 cattle met with a better trade than expected with even the plainer friesian cows finding an increased demand. Top price cow 161p/kg and heifers 158p/kg. Top priced Cow £1151.15

Cows prices: Limousin to 161p average 127.22p/kg

Friesian to 124p average 97.75p/kg

Hereford to 100p average 88.06p/kg

Others to 125p average 105.37p/kg

Heifers: Limousin to 158p

Belgian Blue to 150p

Friesian to 139p

Hereford to 142p

57 Cattle average 102.77p/kg

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our data base can be updated many thanks.

OSWESTRY CATTLE AUCTIONS MARKET REPORT

FAT CATTLE: (43): A seasonal entry of cattle forward with a lot of good quality cattle in the entry. Top slots hit 223p for Heifers, 220p for Steers and 214p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1393 for a steer. Bottom book of 120p for a plain friesian bull. Overall market average of 190.5p was achieved. If you have cattle to sell please contact the auctioneer Jonathan Evans on 07971 002650 or the Market office.

Young bulls (21) Overall Average 179p.

Light bulls (1) Selling to 214p (£984/head) from J Gittins Wrexham

Medium bulls (13) Average 183p (£935/head) Selling to 210p from J Gittins Wrexham

Heavy bulls (7) Average 167p (£880/head) Selling to 204p from J Gittins Wrexham

Steers (4) Overall average 204p.

Light steers (1) Selling to 190p (£788/head) from BR Corfield Gungrog Farm

Medium steers (1) selling to 220p (£1155/head) from J Gittins Wrexham

Heavy steers (2) average 202p (£1235/head) selling to 216p from J Gittins Wrexham

Heifers (18) overall average 200.5p

Heavy heifers(18)average 200.5p(£1075/head) selling to 223p from JH & SE Roberts & Sons Rolly Farm

A good entry for the last sale before Christmas and a very good trade. Thank you for your support and we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

FAT LAMBS: (3,304)

A very good entry of 3,304 fat lambs on Wednesday December 21, the trade was very good on the day averaging 207p/kg, 803 light lambs averaged 198.5p/kg peaking at £64.20 (210p/kg) for 30.5kg from

J I Austin Maesffynnon. 949 Standard lambs averaged 206.5p/kg peaking £87.50 (230p/kg) for 38kg from EL Evans Derlwyn. 972 medium lambs levelled at a very good 212p/kg with the tops being 225p/kg or £94.50 for 42kg from S Jones Winston Farm. Overweights peaked at £108 for 52kg lambs

Superlights to 185p average 180p Lights to 210p average 198.5p, standards to 230p average 206.5p, mediums to 225p average 212p, heavys to 215p average 203.5p, others to 189p average 181p. Overall average 207p.

Oswestry Cattle Auctions wish to thank everybody for super support and wish all customers the compliments of the season

FAT EWES: (645)

A slightly smaller entry than last week met an exceptionally good trade throughout.

Ewes to £136 average £63.50, rams to £114.00, average £82.00

Please note, all sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

CALVES: (44)

A typical pre-Christmas entry and plenty of buyers attending ensuring strong bidding throughout. British Blue heifers topping the sale at £302from Messrs Clay Brook Farm and Messrs Davies Ty Brith.

British blue bulls to £286 from Messrs Jones Bank Farm. Limousin Bulls to £296 from Messrs Jones Lady Hill £288 from Messrs Heatly The Grange £274 from Messrs Owen Carreg Y Franc. Limousin heifers to £228 from Messrs Jones Lady Hill £204 from Messrs Davies Ty Brith.

Simmental bulls to £252 from Messrs Jones Lady Hill. Friesian Bulls to £160 from Messrs Ellis Pentre Wern £158 from Messrs Foulkes Maesteg £110 from Messrs Evans Wern Farm, £106 from Messrs Ellis Pentre Wern £102 from Messrs Suckley Weston Farm £94 from Messrs Davies Park Mill

U72 & CULL COWS: (27)

A seasonal entry of 26 cattle met with an excellent trade. Cows to 145p/kg.

Cows: Limousin to 144p average 121.94p/kg

Belgian Blue to 145p average 141.46p/kg

Friesian to 119p average 88.94p/kg

Plain friesian bull sold for 105p/kg.

The very plain friesian cows were also selling well ranging from 50p – 92p/kg

26 Cattle average 106.43p/kg

If any vendor has changed their farm assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our data base can be updated many thanks.

WELSHPOOL LIVESTOCK SALES

Messrs Morris Marshall & Poole and Norman Lloyd.

Welshpool Livestock Sales report on a highly successful auction at Buttington Cross Welshpool on

Monday December 19.

OTMS (45)

A reduced entry of OTMs selling to an average of 120ppkg for the cows and 145ppkg for the steers.

Older cows sold to a top price of £948.33 for a Welsh Black cow weighing 771kg from E & D Jones Lluestwen. M R Williams Wern Holdings sold a Friesian cow weighing 754kg to £882.18. Two Limousin cows under 72 months from G P Pugh & Son The Garth sold to £1124.80 each.

Under 72 month old steers from R E Peate 6 Nantllachar sold to £1005.21 and £944.24. E & D Jones Lluestwen receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price older cow sold on the day.

FAT CATTLE (5)

Only five fat cattle on offer for sale today selling to an average of 175ppkg for the steers and 203ppkg for the heifers.

H W Davies Tynant sold a Limousin heifer weighing 496kg and achieving 217ppkg. D S Jones & Co Fronheulog sold three heifers to 207ppkg, 204ppkg and 187ppkg. H W Davies Tynant receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest ppkg animal sold on the day.

PRIME LAMBS (6,504)

An entry of 6,511 prime lambs, selling to an excellent average of 193ppkg.

Super lights (up to 25.4kg) (122) to 181ppkg from WI Ellis Talwrn. Others to 179ppkg from M&H Evans Tycerrig. Average of 172ppkg.

Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (1251) to 207ppkg from GJE Hughes & Son Old House. Others to 197ppkg from E, LA & RM Williams Llanllwyda. Average of 185ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg) (1574) to 214ppkg from M R Jones & Son Lawnt. Others to 210ppkg from A H Morgan Penybryn. Average of 192ppkg.

Mediums (39.1kg to 45.5kg) (2555) to 225ppkg from E A Marston New House. Others to 213ppkg from GJE Hughes Old House. Average of 196ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (701) to 206ppkg from BL Griffiths Lower Penygelli. Others to 205ppkg from A P Humphreys Llwynmadoc. Average of 187ppkg.

Over Weights (over 52kg) (210) to 183ppkg from DR Owen & Sons Sandilands. Other to 181ppkg from RE & BR Roberts Hendre. Average of 171ppkg.

Weekly Sales of fat lambs are at 10.30am.

CULL EWE (2112)

An entry of 2112 cull sheep sold to a good average price of £65.07 per head for the ewes and £84.95 for the rams. WRP Jones Pant sold ewes to a top price of £143 per head. ME & MB Roberts Woodleasowes sold ewes to £131 per head. Cull rams topped at £144 per head from WV Davies, Trewythen.

Weekly sales of cull sheep immediately follow the sale of fat lambs.

STORE EWES AND STORE LAMBS.

Store Lambs. A strong entry of 847 lambs entered the market this week selling to a slightly reduced but good average of £63.

Top price theave lambs from D Gregory Llyfriniog Uchaf realised £74 while Texelx mixed and clean lambs from TG Lewis Brynycil achieved £77.50. Wether lambs from GF Gethin Pentre made £72 with tup lambs from DT & CE Jones Hafod realised £77.20.

There will be NO Store Lambs for sale next week. Sale of store lambs to commence as usaual on Monday, January 2 at 10.30am Prompt.

DAIRY COWS

The final sale of dairy cattle in 2011 met with a good entry of 17 and a good trade with eight heifers being over £1,940. Leading the way at £2000 was a Moet Melody daughter giving 25kg a day presented by RR Corfield & Co Bronynant. Two Del Cashmore heifers from the same home made £1,950 and £1,940. Presented by MT Jones Elms Farm where a pair of heifers giving 5 to 5½ gallons per day which made £1,950 and £1,990.

KS Jones sold a 2nd calver for £1620. While four heifers by Fenshall Silver sold to a top price of £2,000 to average £1,910. W A Morris presented a British Friesian heifer which sold for £1850.

The overall average for the heifers was £1,887. A breakdown of the prices where as follows. £1,900 to £2,000 8 lots, £1,700 to £1,900 2 lots, £1,500 to £1,700 3 lots, less than £1,500 2 lots.

Welshpool Livestock Sales report on a highly successful sale of in lamb Texel ewes on behalf of the Shropshire and Border Texel Club.

Although the catalogue drew an entry of 140 in-lamb ewes, 131 were forward on the day with 118 of the ewes being sold.

Average where as follows:

104 yearling ewes £333.98 and 7x2year old ewes £351.00, 4x3 year old ewes, 4x4year old £212.63

Mr Frank Rushton of the Freshfileds Flock judged the show and the result were as follows:

Aged Ewe – 1 REJ Pierce Oldfields Farm sold for 620gns selling to RE Davies Boycott Hall.

2 Claybury Texels and was not sold.

3 JT Bebb Polemere sold for 240gns selling to DR Owen & Sons Sandilands.

Yearling Ewes: 1 & Champion was awarded to lot 119 from RN Bennett Upper Hall and was purchased by SJ Smith Penybryn for 2,000gns.

2 & Reserve Champion went to lot 68 from NE & JA Gibbs Bettonfield Farm which was bought by E Lewis & Co Tanygraig Llanidloes for 420gns.

3 RJ Hughes & Co Argoed Farm selling to 420gns to M & S Jones Lower Forest

Other notable prices from the sale included:

Yearlings: Lot 128 from R N Bennett Lower Hall made 820gns.

Lot 105 from J Ruggeri Gwaelod y Rhos made 820gns.

Lot 37 from TD & MJ Orrells & Son Middle Llegodig made 580gns.

Aged : Lot 15 from R N Bennett Lower Hall made 380gns

Lot 26 from J T Bebb Polemere made 320gns

Lot 4 from Claybury Texels made 320gns.

Forthcoming Sales.

Tuesday, December 27, Sale of fat lambs and cull sheep ONLY

Monday January 2, sale of OTMs, fat cattle, fat hoggets, cull sheep, store ewes, store lambs & dairy cows.

Monday, January 9, sale of Cows and Calves.

Monday January 16, sale of dairy cows and store cattle

Monday, January 23, sale of cows and calves

Monday, January 30, sale of dairy cows.

Tuesday, January 31, January Fair, store cattle.

Dial A Curry at Ganges Tandoori

INDIAN TAKEAWAY

Established for 24 years

We would like to wish all our customers a very Happy New Year! Thank you for all of your support over the years'!

ORIENTAL STARTERS
CHICKEN CHAT 2.50
LAMB CHAT 2.75
STUFFED PEPPER (CHICKEN OR LAMB) 3.50
MEAT SOMOSA 2.10
CHICKEN PAKORA 2.50
CHICKEN TIKKA 2.75
LAMB TIKKA 3.10
TANDOORI CHICKEN 2.50
CHICKEN SHASHLIK 2.95
LAMB SHASHLIK 3.25
SHEEK KEBAB 2.75
SHAMI KEBAB 2.75
NARGIS KEBAB 2.95
PUREE TIKKA
(CHICKEN OR LAMB) 3.25
RESHMI KEBAB 2.75
MIXED KEBAB TANDOORI 3.25

FISH STARTERS
PRAWN COCKTAIL 2.95
PRAWN PUREE 2.95
KING PRAWN BUTTERFLY 3.50
KING PRAWN PUREE 3.75
TANDOORI KING PRAWN 3.70

VEGETABLE STARTERS
ONION BHAJEE 2.10
MUSHROOM PUREE 2.50
ALOO CHAT 2.50
VEGETABLE PUREE 2.50
STUFFED PEPPER (VEG) 2.95
CHANA PUREE 2.50
VEGETABLE SOMOSA 2.20

CHEF'S RECOMMENDATIONS
CHEF'S SPECIAL 5.75
Chicken tikka or Lamb Tikka or Prawn (hot or mild on request)
CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA
ACHARI 5.50
Slightly hot, sour, cooked with lime pickle
CHICKEN OR LAMB CHAT 5.50
Slightly hot, sweet & sour
NAGA CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA (Hot) 5.50
CHICKEN TIKKA MOSSALLA BALTI 5.50
Slightly sweet and sour
LAMB TIKKA MOSSALLA BALTI 5.75
Slightly sweet and sour
MURGHI MOSSALLA 5.75
An Indian wedding feast dish comprised of chicken seasoned in a blend of herbs and spices cooked with minced meat and boiled egg
CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA MOSSALLA 5.75
Tikka cooked in our oven first, then a delicate creamy curry is made from a desirable tast
CHICKEN OR LAMB CHILLI MOSSALLA 5.50
A unique curry for madras lovers with green chilli and minced meat
TANDOORI KING PRAWN MOSSALLA 7.95
King Prawn cooked in our clay oven first, then a delicate creamy curry is made from a desirable taste.
BUTTER CHICKEN 5.50
Spring boneless chicken grilled in tandoori and cooked with butter, cream and special spices.
LAMB OR CHICKEN BADAM PASANDA 5.75
Clay oven cooked lamb or chicken cured in home made yoghurt and herbs. A nutty cream curry, made with almonds, coconuts & sultanas.
GINGER CHICKEN OR LAMB 5.75
(Tikka) Cooked with extra fresh ginger and coriander – a unique alternative to a hot curry
CHICKEN OR LAMB JALFRAZEE 5.75
(Tikka) Steady hot with tomato, chilli and coriander – a unique alternative to a hot curry.
GARLIC CHICKEN OR LAMB 5.75
(Tikka) Cooked with extra garlic and coriander Hot on request
TANDOORI GARLIC KING PRAWN 7.95
Marinated Tandoori King Prawn cooked in a clay oven first then cooked with fresh garlic, coriander and herbs. Hot on request
TANDOORI KING PRAWN JALFRAZEE 7.95
Marinated Tandoori King Prawn cooked in clay oven first then cooked with fresh green chilli, coriander and herbs.
TANDOORI GINGER KING PRAWN 7.95
Marinated Tandoori King Prawn cooked in clay oven first then cooked with fresh ginger, coriander and herbs. Hot on request.
CHICKEN OR LAMB SHATKORA 5.75
Hot on Request

TANDOORI SPECIALITIES
A unique clay oven preparation of Persian Royal origin – one of the best among aromatic cuisine. Instant clay oven prepared naan bread is highly recommended to take with it.
TANDOORI CHICKEN 5.50
Half Chicken on the bone cured in yoghurt, tandoori spices and herbs, cooked in clay oven with fresh salad
CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA 5.95
Special juicy pieces of chicken or lamb marinated in exotic spices and herbs, cooked in clay oven with fresh salad
TANDOORI KING PRAWN 8.95
Special juicy pieces of King Prawn marinated in exotic spices and herbs, cooked in clay oven with fresh salad
TANDOORI MIXED GRILL 7.95
Quarter Chicken, Chicken Tikka, Lamb Tikka, Sheekh Kebab, served with naan, Vegetable Curry and fresh salad
SHAHI CHICKEN OR /LAMB TIKKA 6.50
Juicy pieces of chicken or lamb marinated in exotic spices and herbs, cooked in clay oven with fresh salad, fried onions & green peppers
CHICKEN OR LAMB SHASHLIK 6.50
Fresh onion, green peppers and tomato, cooked in clay oven served with fresh salad
SHEEK KEBAB 6.50
Minced Lamb served with Salad

KORAI SPECIAL
A traditional method of cooking is applied on cast iron pot for a curry comprised of chicken, lamb, or King Prawn cured in yoghurt, herbs and spices cooked in clay oven and then natural spices.
CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA 5.75
TANDOORI KING PRAWN 7.50

BIRYANIES
Finest Basmati rice treated in clarified butter with a touch of medium spices, complimented by a fresh vegetable curry (Hot on Request)
TANDOORI MIXED BIRYANI 6.95
(Chicken, lamb and prawns with omelette)
CHICKEN BIRYANI 6.20
PRAWN BIRYANI 6.20
MEAT BIRYANI 6.95
KEEMA BIRYAN 6.20
VEGETABLE BIRYANI 5.50
MUSHROOM BIRYANI 5.50
KING PRAWN BIRYANI 7.50
PERSIAN CHICKEN OR LAMB BIRYANI 6.95
(with Banana)
MALAYA CHICKEN OR LAMB BIRYANI 6.95
(With Pineapple)
PRAWN & MUSHROOM BIRYANI 6.95
CHICKEN & MUSHROOM BIRYANI 6.95
CHICKEN OR LAMB BIRYANI TIKKA 6.50
TANDOORI BIRYANI 6.50
(Off the Bone)

BALTI DISHES
Very popular nowadays, either with lamb, chicken, King Prawn marinated, cooked in Balti with herbs and spices. (Hot on Request)
BALTI CHICKEN OR MEAT 4.75
BALTI PRAWN 4.75
BALTI KEEMA 4.75
BALTI KING PRAWN 6.95
BALTI SPECIAL TIKKA 5.75
(Chicken or Lamb)
BALTI MIXED SPECIAL 5.75
(Chicken, meat, Prawn & Mushroom)
BALTI CHICKEN AND SAG 5.50
(With Spinach)
BALTI CHICKEN AND CHANA 5.50
(With Chick peas)
BALTI CHICKEN AND ALOO 5.50
(With potato)
BALTI MEAT AND SAG 5.95
(With Spinach)
BALTI MEAT AND CHANA 5.95
(With chick peas)
BALTI MEAT AND ALOO 5.95
(With Potato)
BALTI VEGETABLE AND ALOO 4.50
(With Potato)

VEGETARIAN SELECTION
Vegetable Curry 4.10
Vegetable Mossalla 4.10
Vegetable Madras 4.10
Vegetable Bhuna 4.10
Vegetable Dupiaza 4.10
Vegetable Dansak 4.10
Vegetable Korma 4.10
Vegetable Ceylon 4.10
Vegetable Vindaloo 4.10
Vegetable Rogan 4.10
Vegetable Pathia 4.10
Chana Mossalla (Chick Peas) 4.10

SAGWALLA
A Medium strength dish, cooked with spinach and various Oriental spices & herbs (Hot on Request)
CHICKEN SAGWALLA 6.50
MEAT SAGWALLA 6.95
PRAWN SAGWALLA 6.50
KING PRAWN SAGWALLA 7.95
TANDOORI KING PRAWN 7.95
CHICKEN/LAMB TIKKA/LAMB 6.75

TRADITIONAL DISHES
The following can be cooked to any style listed below

CURRY – MADRAS OR VINDALOO
Madras is fairly hot and Vindaloo is very, very hot.
Not recommended for children

KORMA
Very mild with almond powder, coconut and fresh cream

KASHMIRI
Very mild & creamy, sweetly flavoured cooked with banana

CEYLON
Fairly hot and sour served with a slice of lemon

BOMBAY
Cooked with tomato, potato and egg (Hot on Request)

BHUNA
Medium spiced, dry with onions, tomatoes and fresh coriander (Hot on Request)
CHICKEN 4.30
MEAT 4.30
PRAWN 4.30
KING PRAWN 7.25
TANDOORI KING PRAWN 7.75
CHICKEN OR LAMB TIKKA 5.50
VEGETABLE 4.10

VEGETABLE SIDE DISHES
ALOO MOTAR (Chick Peas and potato) 2.20
BOMBAY POTATO (Spiced Potato) 2.20
CAULIFLOWER BHAJEE 2.20
MUSHROOM BHAJEE 2.20
BEGUN BHAJEE (Brinjal) 2.20
MIXED VEGETABLE BHAJEE 2.20
MIXED VEGETABLE CURRY 2.20
BANANA IN SPICES 2.20
PINEAPPLE IN SPICES 2.20
TARKA DHAL (Lentils with garlic) 2.20
BINDI BHAJEE (Lady's Finger, Okra) 2.20
ALOO GOBI (Potato & Cauliflower) 2.20
SAG BHAJEE (Spinach & Potato) 2.20
SAG PANEER (Spinach with Indian Cheese) 2.20
SAG ALOO (Spinach & Potato) 2.20
CHANA BHUNA (Chick Peas) 2.20
MOTAR PANEER (Chick Peas& Cheese) 2.20
KORMA SAUCE 1.95
CURRY SAUCE 1.75
CHUTNEY (Pickles) Per Item 0.50
CUCUMBER OR ONION RAITHA 1.25

TANDOORI BREAD
KEEMA NAAN(Stuffed with minced lamb) 1.80
PESHWARI NAAN (with sultana, almond & coconut) 1.80
VEGETABLE NAAN(with fresh vegetables) 1.80
CHILLI NAAN (with Green chilli) 1.80
KULCHA NAAN (with onion & cheese) 1.80
TIKKA NAAN (with chicken or lamb tikka) 2.50
GARLIC NAAN (with sliced garlic) 1.80
PLAIN NAAN 1.70
TANDOORI ROTE 1.50
CHAPTAI 0.95
PUREE 0.95
PARATHA (Stuffed or Plain) 2.10

CURRY ACCOMPANIMENTS
CHICKEN/LAMB FRIED RICE 2.75
PRAWN FRIED RICE 2.75
LEMON FRIED RICE 2.30
VEGETABLE PILLAW RICE 2.30
SPECIAL PLLAW RICE (with peas and egg) 2.30
KEEMA PILLAW RICE 2.50
MUSHROOM PILLAW RICE 2.30
MUSHROOM FRIED RICE 2.30
GARLIC FRIED RICE 2.30
EGG FRIED RICE 2.30
EGG PILLAW RICE 2.30
BOILED RICE 1.70
FRIED RICE 1.95
PILLAW RICE 1.80
CHIPS 1.20
FRIED MUSHROOM 1.75
GREEN SALAD 1.50
POPADOM (Plain or Spiced) 0.45

SPECIAL OFFER
Orders over £10.00 -A FREE SIDE DISH
Orders over £15.00 A FREE STARTER
Orders over £25.00 A FREE MAIN DISH

Thank you for all of your support over the years.

32 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6BT

Tel: 01743 368888
01743 363777 01743 249993

OPENING HOURS

Sunday to Thursday5.00pm to 12.00am
Friday & Saturday 5.00pm to 1.00 am

NEWS

01691 668094

Council's delight at award

WHITTINGTON Parish Council has won an award for its outstanding contribution to the community.

The parish council won Shropshire Local Association of Local Council's Jan Snell Award for 2011.

The award is given in memory of Jan Snell, the assistant secretary of the association for many years before she died five years ago.

He said that many projects had been undertaken during 2011, with the primary one the successful purchase of land, enabling the existing parish cemetery to be extended and therefore continue to provide burial facilities within the parish.

A second award for the year had been an honour for parish clerk Sue Cowley.

Mrs Cowley received her award in recognition of her 28 years as the clerk to Whittington Parish Council.

Step forward for town's transport improvements

PROPOSALS TO make Oswestry residents healthier and happier through changes to how the town's transport system works are taking a step forward.

Following a well attended public meeting in September to discuss the new Local Sustainable Transport Fund which benefits Oswestry, a first steering group meeting will take place tonight from 7pm at the town's Memorial Hall. A number of improvements to the transport system in and around Oswestry have already been made.

By Graham Breeze

They include the replacement of the traffic lights at the Church Street/Upper Brook Street junction in the town centre and the production of the first edition of an Oswestry walking and cycling map to help visitors and local enjoy all the area has to offer.

Youngsters also got involved, with Love Your Bike Month events during October held in local primary schools.

The programme organisers say ideas generated will be drawn together to set a plan of action for the next 12 months. The initiatives are aimed at improving access to work and education. They are also aimed at boosting sustainable tourism and reducing harmful carbon emissions while at the same time improving the health of Oswestry residents.

Councillor Simon Jones, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member with responsibility for transport, said: "The package of initiatives has already and will continue to bring a real benefit to Oswestry, helping to improve access to work and education and boosting sustainable tourism whilst reducing congestion, carbon emissions and improving health.

"I would urge everyone to find out what is going on and see how they can get involved."

Martin Bennett, Shropshire Councillor for Oswestry East, said: "At a time when there are very tight curbs on public spending it's good to know that Oswestry is in line

Readathon raises charity cash

STUDENTS OF Welshpool High School have recently been involved in the annual readathon event, which raises funds for children's charities, Clic Sargent and Roald Dahl's children's charity. They raised a total of £818,

Winners were. From left, Charlie Weaver, James Corfield and Ceri Smith. Other winners, (not pictured), Olivia Jones, Lucy Cordy and Bethan Berreclough.

Bridge is closed to heavier vehicles

MOTORISTS are being reminded that a weight restriction has been imposed on a road bridge near Oswestry.

Llanymynech Station Bridge, which carries the B4398 Knockin to Llanymynech road over a disused railway line, now has a mandatory 7.5 tonne weight limit.

The limit is necessary to ensure that the bridge, which has been assessed as being weak, can continue to remain open safely. It is intended as a temporary measure until the bridge can be strengthened.

Shropshire Council, as the highway authority, is liaising with the bridge's owner, BRB Residuary Ltd, to develop a strengthening scheme which it is hoped can be built during the 2012/13 financial year.

NOW ON

DOBBIES BIG WINTER SALE

WITH THOUSANDS OF QUALITY PRODUCTS AT UP TO HALF PRICE IN-STORE AND ONLINE

Dobbies Garden World | Bayston Hill Nurseries | Shrewsbury SY3 0DA | Tel: 01743 874 261

Shop online at www.dobbies.com

All offers available while stocks last. Offers are not valid in conjunction with any other discount, offer or promotion. Sale products may vary from store to store and are limited online. Images used are for illustration purposes only.

Dobbies GARDEN WORLD it's in our nature www.dobbies.com

Mortimers solicitors

Property expert Chris Mills is the new face at our Shrewsbury office

A friendly, reliable and experienced service to guide you through residential and commercial property matters

5 Swan Hill Court, Shrewsbury SY1 1NP
chrismills@mortimers-solicitors.co.uk
01743 298629 Parking available

National Top 10 Restaurant, 2008
Third Place Indian Restaurant & Takeaway
Fully Licensed • Open 7 Days
HOME DELIVERY
Outside catering also available
Saturday & Sunday Lunch, & Sunday Evening Special
3 COURSES £8.95
Only per person
Serving 12 noon-2 pm & 5 pm-midnight
Gift vouchers now available
Tel: 01743 272 041 / 272042
135 Frankwell, Shrewsbury
www.thirdplaceindian.com
info@thirdplaceindian.com

Latest Korando lands with new dealerships and service centres

DRIVE TIME with Graham Breeze

THE ARRIVAL OF the new Korando in the UK follows some significant changes behind the scenes at SsangYong.

SsangYong Motor UK (SYMUK), the new importer, will distribute the marque in the UK and is promising an expanded dealer network and a raft of new models in coming years, including extensions to the Korando range.

The UK moves follow the 70 per cent acquisition of SsangYong by Indian engineering conglomerate Mahindra & Mahindra and mean the company is very much back in business.

And last week five new dealerships were unveiled across the country bringing its network strength to 34 sales & service dealerships and 18 service centres.

The new Korando offers a good balance of comfort and handling with plenty of power as well as 4X4 good looks.

This is clearly Ssang Yong's best car yet. It has Crossover good looks and it's roomy and practical but the company faces an uphill struggle to win shares in a highly competitive market sector.

All cars come with stability control, plus front side and curtain airbags, as standard.

There are also active head restraints to help prevent whiplash injuries, and security is provided by an alarm and engine immobiliser.

Getting comfortable in the driving seat shouldn't be a problem with standard height adjustment and two-way movement on the steering column.

The dash is plain and uncomplicated with well marked controls and the cabin is roomy with a wide middle seat.

The boot is large and rear seats fold completely flat to extend it further.

SsangYong intends to offer value for money, and a high level of equipment is a part of this. Even the entry-level model comes with cruise control, rear parking sensors, air conditioning, Bluetooth and iPod connections and roof rails.

Higher up the range you get heated leather seats, a sunroof and electric mirrors.

Prices start at just under £17,000 and top out at £21,445 for the top of the range 2.0d EX AW 5 door and while some rivals may come in cheaper SsangYong's Paul Williams, chief executive officer said: "The past two years have been extremely testing, and we wouldn't be here today without the tremendous loyalty and support of our dealer network.

"The new Korando also means that SsangYong returns with a significant addition to its range and pitches the brand into the all-important crossover segment, one of the fastest growing in the UK car market."

These really are exciting times for SsangYong and after nearly vanishing off our roads completely we will be seeing a lot more off the Korando, particularly as dealerships start to spring up across the country.

motors.co.uk
Find 1000s of cars locally

AT A GLANCE

SsangYong Korando 2.0d EX AWD 5dr

Price: £21,445

CO2 emissions: 169 g/km

Top speed: 112mph 0-60mph: 9.9 secs

Combined fuel: 44.1mpg

Tax band: H

SPECIAL PURCHASE
EXCLUSIVE TO FURROWS
NEW FORD
KA STUDIO 1.2 3DR

Specification
- ABS brakes
- Electric power-assisted steering
- CD radio with MP3 and AUX-in connector
- Driver's and front passenger Airbags
- Engine immobiliser
- Guide me home headlights
- Speed sensitive windscreen wipers

RRP £8545
SAVE £1550 against RRP
NOW £6995

·64.2MPG
·NIL ROAD TAX COST

HURRY - LIMITED STOCKS AT THIS AMAZING PRICE!!

Ford
Feel the difference

Furrows DRIVING PRICES DOWN

Telford Haybridge Road 01952 641433 | Oswestry Whittington Rd 01691 654141 | Shrewsbury Harlescott Lane 01743 454444

www.furrows.co.uk

Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Ford Ka 1.2 Duratec (69PS), M5 : urban 48.7 (5.8), extra urban 64.2 (4.4), combined 57.6 (4.9). Official CO2 emission 115g/km. Retail only. Metallic paint extra cost. This supersedes all previously advertised manufacturer's promotions. Details correct at time of going to print. Subject to availability. Contact us for terms and conditions. Applies to qualifying new vehicles. Where savings are shown, advertised prices are calculated by deducting the saving from the manufacturer's recommended OTR price. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only. Vehicles must be registered by 31st January 2012. ask us for full details.

AMAZING FURROWS OFFERS
SAVE UP TO £5,610
ON A 61 REG MAZDA

MAZDA 5 1.8 TS 7 seater
• 16" alloy wheels • Cruise control • Manual air-conditioning
• Steering wheel-mounted remote audio controls
• CD audio unit with AM/FM radio, six speakers, MP3/WMAcompatibility
• Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)
• Dynamic Stability Control
• Traction Control System

OUR PRICE £12995
RRP £18,605 SAVE £5610

61 REG MAZDA 2 FROM £11,645	RRP	NOW	SAVE
MAZDA 2 Sport 1.6D 5dr, Silver	£15,235	£12695	£2,540
MAZDA 2 3dr Sport 1.5, Aquatic Blue	£13,385	£11,645	£1,740
MAZDA 2 3dr Sport 1.5, Ice Blue	£13,385	£11,645	£1,740
61 REG MAZDA 3 FROM £13,995	**RRP**	**NOW**	**SAVE**
MAZDA 3 Sport 1.6 3dr, Choice from	£17,995	£13,995	£4,000
MAZDA 3 1.6 TS2, Celestial Blue	£17,195	£13,995	£3,200
61 REG MAZDA 6 FROM £17,055	**RRP**	**NOW**	**SAVE**
MAZDA 6 2.2 D TS 5dr, Stormy Blue	£21,055	£17,055	£4,000
MAZDA 6 2.2 D TS2 5dr, Stormy Blue	£22,255	£18,255	£4,000
MAZDA 6 2.2 D Sport 5dr, Stormy Blue & Silver Blue	£24,105	£20,105	£4,000
MAZDA 6 2.2 D TS2 Estate, Copper Red	£22,920	£18,920	£4,000
61 REG MAZDA MX-5 FROM £16,995	**RRP**	**NOW**	**SAVE**
MAZDA MX-5 SE, True Red, Cream Leather	£20,690	£16,995	£3,695

Furrows DRIVING PRICES DOWN
Telford Haybridge Road 01952 641433 | Oswestry Whittington Rd 01691 654141 | Shrewsbury Harlescott Lane 01743 454444

Visit our new website www.furrows.co.uk

Build a dream Porsche and drive it as well...

The 2012 Mercedes-Benz SL is more desirable and frugal than ever.

Stephen Fry

WHEELS AND DEALS

PORSCHE is offering fans of the iconic 911 sports car the chance to create their ideal specification: one lucky winner will get to drive that exact car at the Porsche Driving Centre at Silverstone.

The new configurator, at www.porsche.co.uk, uses new software to give more realistic views from every interior and exterior angle, and allows the user to play the engine sound of their car, or even calculate financial packages.

Entrants need to specify their dream 911 and complete their details before January 31, 2012, and the lucky winner will have their car built to their specification and get a half-day drive on the variety of circuits and surfaces at the Silverstone facility.

The 991-generation Porsche 911 Carrera starts at £71,449, with the Carrera S available from £81,242.

● Behold the new Mercedes-Benz SL, the pinnacle of the company's vision of sporting luxury - at least until we see an AMG version.

Performance is up, weight is down and the packaging looks more appealing than ever.

The bodyshell is now made entirely of aluminium as opposed to steel, better living up to its 'Sports Lightweight' badge.

Even though extra safety equipment has been added, the new SL is up to 140kg lighter than the old model in a like-for-like comparison.

Two models have been announced to begin with; the SL350 sitting beneath the SL500. It's the SL500 that's most interesting for technology.

The old 5.5-litre naturally aspirated V8 has been replaced with a turbocharged 4.7-litre V8, which produces 46bhp and 125lb.ft more while representing a potential for 22% less fuel consumption.

The combination of more grunt and less weight slices 0.8 seconds off the SL500's 0-62mph time, at just 4.6 seconds.

After all, the torque increase alone is equivalent to the total output of some medium-sized petrol hatchbacks.

The new SL350 is no slouch either, taking 5.9 seconds to reach the same speed, 0.3 seconds less than before.

It keeps the same capacity V6 engine, but retuned to give slightly less power and slightly more torque.

In its new configuration, it uses 30% less fuel, which is a huge margin if it can be matched on the road.

As part of a 'BlueDirect' system of eco-enhancements, both engines are fitted with stop/start functions as standard. Used wisely they can substantially improve fuel economy in heavy traffic.

Combined with its size and instantly recognisable profile, the new SL will have an awful lot of presence on the road.

Prices are yet to be confirmed, but it will go on sale in July next year.

● Owners of TomTom satnavs can now choose yet another celebrity to give them directions, because intellectuals' favourite Stephen Fry has been added to the company's downloadable selection of famous voices.

In a recent poll, QI presenter Fry was voted the person motorists would most like to give a lift to, and now they can, courtesy of a TomTom navigation unit.

As well as Stephen Fry, you can also have Han Solo from Star Wars, Jeremy Clarkson or even Dora the Explorer pointing the route out in their own unique ways. One for the kids, that last one.

Among the prolific tweeter's Fry-isms are: "So, let's see now, after 300 yards turn left, then go straight on. This is going awfully well, isn't it?"

Another pearl of wisdom in the databank is: "At the end of the road, take the ferry. Oh, let's take the ferry! Oh, please, please, I love ferries. I hope you don't get seasick. I don't. I love them! Ferry much."

To give your satnav a little more personality this Christmas, all of the 99 voices can be downloaded via TomTom's website (www.tomtom.com), priced at £7.95.

You can design your own new Porsche 911 and drive it!

Dealers say used cars promotion is biggest of its kind

ONE of the biggest used car sales of its kind has started in Shrewsbury and Telford.

More than 150 used cars of most makes are on display at the William A. Lewis Car Group sites in Featherbed Lane, Harlescott, Shrewsbury, and Stafford Park, Telford.

"There's a huge choice and massive savings to be made from a good cross section of vehicles," said Martin Priddy, group marketing co-ordinator.

"We reckon there's a vehicle to suit most needs with sales starting from £3,495. And there's £3,000 off the price of a new Nissan Pathfinder.

"Customers are advised to look out for the Golden Ticket displayed on the windscreen to see how much they can save.

"And, as would be expected from William A. Lewis, these are top quality cars which are all fully guaranteed."

William A. Lewis will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Tuesday December 27, New Year's Day and Monday January 2. The sale lasts until Sunday January 15.

The Furrows

Don't miss the Massive Savings & Unbeatable Value on a huge choice of used cars in our biggest Sale yet!

Used car sale

NOW ON!

10-60 Ford Mondeo
2.0 Titanium Powershift Auto 5dr, direct from Ford (Price new £22,015). New shape, Chill metallic.
WAS £12289
Save £10020 OFF NEW LIST PRICE
£11995

09-59 Kia cee'd
1.6 Level 2 Ecodynamics 5dr, Balance of 7 Yr Warranty, Metallic Red
WAS £7995
£6995

09-09 Kia Soul 1.6
Series 2 Sports SUV, Techno Orange
WAS £7995
£7495

10-10 Ford Focus
ST3 5dr, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, Frozen White
WAS £15479
£14695

10-60 Ford Fiesta
1.4 Zetec Climate 5dr A/C, CD, ABS, Alloys
WAS £10495
£9795

08-58 Mazda 6
2.0 TDCi TS-2 5dr A/C, CD, ABS, C/L, Alloys
WAS £10995
£9995

09-59 Ford Focus
1.6 Zetec Climate 5dr 6,133 miles
WAS £8995
£8595

OVER 500 CARS AT SALE PRICES
SAVE UP TO £10020
OFF NEW LIST PRICE

11 Reg New model Ford Fiesta
1.4 Titanium, Top Specification
SAVE £5080 OFF NEW LIST PRICE
WAS £11495 £10695

09 09 Mazda 2
1.5 TS -2 5dr
Air con, CD, alloys, ABS, C/L, E/W, metallic paint
SAVE £1000
WAS £8995 £7995

Sale selection at Shrewsbury

		WAS	NOW
08-08	Ford Focus 1.8 Tdci 7zetec Diesel 5Dr Kelp Metallic	£8695	£7995
08-08	Ford Mondeo 2.0 Tdci Zetec Diesel 5dr,Alloys,A/C,Silver	£8495	£7995
08-08	Ford Mondeo 2.0 Tdci Diesel Edge Automatic 5dr Panther Black	£8495	£7995
10-60	New Mdl Ford Ka 1.3 Tdci Diesel Zetec 3dr Aqua Metallic		£7995
09 -58	Ford Mondeo 2.0 Tdci Titanium X, Top Spec 5dr New Shape, Morrello Met.	£11,995	£11495
09 -59	Mazda 2 TS2 3dr Grey Metallic	£7,695	£6995
10 -60	Mazda 2 1.3TS2 3dr, Blue Metallic	£7,995	£7495
06-06	Skoda Octavia 1.9Tdi Elegance 5 dr Diesel	£6995	£6495
08 -58	Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i Club 5dr, Silver lightning	£5,495	£4995
08-58	Volkswagen Golf 1.9 Tdi Diesel Match 5dr,Black	£9995	£9495
07-07	Ford Focus 1.8 Tdci Diesel Zetec Estate Silver	£6495	£5995
11-60	Ford Kuga 2.0Tdci 7zetec Diesel SUV,Electric White	£17,995	£17495
09-59	Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci TopSpec Titanium Diesel Estate,Silver	£9695	£8995
09-59	Peugeot 308 Hdi Diesel SW Estate,Silver	£9995	£8695
10-60	Mazda 6 2.2 Diesel Takuya Special Edition Estate Facelift Mdl, Black Met.	£16,495	£15995
08-58	Mazda 5 TS2 7Seater Red Metallic	£7495	£6995
10- 60	Ford Kuga 2.0 Tdci Zetec Diesel 4x4 Appearance Pack, Chill Metallic	£19,495	£18495
08- 08	Hyundai Santa Fe' 2.2 Crtd CDX Diesel 4x4, Grey Metallic	£14487	£13695
09-09	Kia Sorento Xrdi"XE" Automatic Diesel 4x4(Only 7k Miles)Metallic Red	£15489	£14995
07-57	Kia Sportage 2.0 Crdi"XS" Diesel 4x4 Full Leather Silver	£10489	£9995
11-61	New Mdl Kia Sportage 2.0Crdi KX3 Diesel Automatic(Only 1k Miles)		£26995
08- 08	Mazda MX5 1.8i Convertible, True Red	£7,695	£6995
11-60	Mazda 2 Sport 5 Door Brilliant Black Ex Demo		£8995
07- 57	Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 Sri 5dr Sporthatch, Silver	£4,995	£4695
06-56	Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Twin Top Coupe convertible,Grey Metallic		£5695

Sale selection at Telford

		WAS	NOW
06 56	Honda Jazz 1.4 dsi SE 5dr alloys,a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met paint		£5695
10 60	Ford Ka 1.2 Zetec Climate 3dr a/c,cd,abs,alloys,cl,ew,f/s/h		£6995
05 55	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style 5dr a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met paint		£3995
10 60	Ford Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Zetec S 3dr alloys,a/c,cd,abs,f/s/h,met paint		£10695
08 58	Ford fiesta ghia 1.4 leather seats a/c alloy wheels met paint		£6495
09 59	Vauxhaull Corsa 1.4 Club Auto 5dr a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met paint		£6695
09 09	Ford Fiesta 1.4 Zetec 5dr a/c,cd,alloys,abs,cl,ew,met paint		£8695
09 09	Ford Focus 2.5 ST-3 3dr, a/c,cd,alloys,abs,cl,ew	£13695	£10995
09 09	Kia ceed 1.6 ls 5dr alloy wheels ac met (choice of colours)	£7495	£5495
08 08	Ford Focus 1.6 Titanium Auto 5dr a/c,cd,alloys,abs,cl,ew,f/s/h		£7995
10 10	NEW Mazda 3 1.6 TS ac alloys cd bluetooth	£10695	£9995
06 56	Ford Focus 1.8 16v Ghia 5dr alloys,abs,cl,ew,met paint,a/c		£5695
11 61	Ford Focus 1.6 Tdci Sport 5dr a/c,alloys,sat nav,abs,f/s/h,met paint		£13495
09 09	Mazda 2 1.5 tdci TS-2 3dr a/c,cd,abs,alloys,cl,ew,met paint		£7995
09 09	Ford Focus 1.6 tdci Zetec Climate 5dr a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met		£8995
10 10	New Fiesta 1.4 tdci Edge 3dr a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met paint	£8995	£7995
10 10	Ford focus 1.6 tdci zetec 5dr alloys a/c Bluetooth fsh (More in stock, colour choice)		£9995
07 07	Ford fusion zetec 1.4 tdci ew alloys a/c alloy wheels met paint		£6295
06 06	Ford Fiesta 1.6 tdci Ghia 5dr alloys,leather,abs,cl,ew,met paint	£6495	£5995
05 05	Honda civic 1.6 se 3dr met paint ew ac alloys centel locking		£4495
09 09	Ford Focus 1.6tdci Zetec Estate 5dr a/c,cd,abs, met paint		£9495
11 11	New C-Max 1.6 tdci Zetec 5dr with factory sat nav only 4k miles	£15995	£14995
05 55	Vauxhaull Astra 1.4 SXi 5dr estate alloys,a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met paint		£3995
08 08	Ford mondeo 2.0 tdci zetec estate alloys, a/c/ ew cd met paint		£8995
01 51	Ford Focus 1.616v Ghia 5dr alloys,a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met paint		£1995
02 52	Ford Focus 1.616v Zetec 3dr alloys,a/c,cd,abs,cl,ew,met paint		£2295
07 57	Vauxhaull Signum 1.9 dti Design 5dr alloys,leather,abs,cl,ew		£5495

Sale selection at Oswestry

		WAS	NOW
08 58	Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 5dr, 16,246mls	£5895	£5695
08 58	C-Max 1.6 Zetec 5dr, Sport Pack, 34,954mls	£6995	£6595
08 58	C-Max Zetec 1.8 TDCi Sport Pack, 27,719mls	£8995	£8595
10 10	Kuga 2.0 TDCi 140 PS Zetec, Appearance Pack, 13,120mls		£16995
07 57	Vauxhall Astra 1.4 SRi 5dr, 24,772mls	£5795	£5495
09 59	Peugeot 207 SW 1.6 HDi Outdor Estate, 18,869mls	£8995	£8495
08 08	Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 5dr, 26,565mls	£4995	£4695
07 56	Octavia Elegance 1.9 TDI DSG 5dr, 35,994mls	£7995	£7595
08 58	Octavia 1.9 TDI Elegance Estate, 23,727mls	£10995	£10595
07 57	Daihatsu Sirion SE, 57,230mls		£4295
06 55	Ford C-Max 2.0 Ghia 5dr, 55,846mls		£4495
04 54	Suzuki Grand Vitara 16V 4x4, 46,571mls		£4995
07 07	Fiesta 1.4 Style Climate 5dr, 29,840mls		£4995

Furrows USED CAR CENTRES

Telford Haybridge Road 01952 641433

Oswestry Whittington Rd 01691 654141

Shrewsbury Harlescott Lane 01743 454444 (opposite Harry Hotspur Pub)

See our latest offers online at: www.furrows.co.uk

Offers correct at time of going to press E&OE. All offers subject to stock availability. Terms & conditions apply. Pictures used for illustration purposes only.

MOTORING

Fast car maker that really doesn't like to do things in a hurry

The Aventador is now available in the UK, although don't expect to see one soon.

THE cars might be quick, but Lamborghini is not a company that does things in a hurry, in the last decade it has only launched two models – the Murcielago and the Gallardo – but on the strength of those alone, it appears to be a sound approach.

Some of the technology has a little age to it also; the Murcielago's V12 can trace its roots all the way back to 1965, while the spaceframe construction follows an old recipe.

However, 13 years under the wing of parent Audi has allowed the Italian firm to really push its boundaries, and the first product to showcase its future has arrived.

The Aventador is now available in the UK, although don't expect to see one soon.

Not only is it going to be a rare beast in simple availability terms, but the sticker price of £240,000 puts it in a pretty exclusive club.

If you are lucky enough to spot one, it is unlikely you'll mistake it for anything else.

The wedge-shaped silhouette is instantly recognisable and links it visually with the previous Murcielago, Diablo and even the original Countach.

The sticker price is £240,000.

AT A GLANCE

Lamborghini Aventador LP700-4, £242,280

Engine: 6.5-litre petrol unit producing 691bhp and 509lb.ft of torque
Transmission: Seven-speed automated manual driving all four wheels
Performance: Top speed 217mph, 0-62mph in 2.9 seconds
Economy: 17.2mpg
Emissions: 398g/km

But it also follows some of the cues of the incredible Reventon, with squared-off edges all over the exterior and running through the cabin, too.

It is unquestionably stunning, traffic-stopping and a Lamborghini through and through.

So far so good then but far from being an evolution inside and out, the Aventador has even more to offer under the skin.

The 2011 Lamborghini Aventador.

The mid-engined powerplant is a 6.5-litre V12 which you could understandably assume is a developed version of the outgoing Murcielago's engine.

But this is a new unit, lightweight and incredibly powerful. Revving to a stratospheric 8,250rpm, it pumps out 691bhp and 509lb.ft of torque.

That engine has even less work to do thanks to a new approach to the car's construction. Switching to a carbonfibre monocoque not only provides much greater strength, it saves a huge amount of weight; the chassis and its aluminium frames weighs only 229kgs, while the whole car checks in at 1,575kgs – exactly the same as a Mondeo Estate. It also has pushrod suspension, just like a Formula 1 car, allowing finer tuning and reducing unsprung weight.

And you can forget anything you might have heard about the Aventador lacking drama. Walking up to it with the key in hand, the sheer purpose of its shape and A-list presence guarantees a racing pulse.

The doors open in classic Lamborghini scissor-fashion, which delivers schoolboy levels of excitement and genuinely makes getting in and out easy.

To start the Aventador, you need to tread the brake and then flip up a red cover to reveal the starter button, exactly like you would on the fire button on a fighter jet.

The result is no less dramatic; after a brief whirr it booms into life, sitting at a high idle speed for a few minutes before settling.

It's loud but not uncouth, a sophisticated mechanical roar rather than just plain loud. Start off in the friendliest Strada mode and the Aventador is as civilised as you could wish for.

The automated clutch takes up smoothly, the steering is lightly weighted at low speeds and aside from the knowledge that you're steering a very expensive angular wedge, you can simply get on with getting around.

The cabin is comfortable, spacious even, and you have the luxury of being able to see out of it – not necessarily standard equipment in previous Lamborghinis.

But you'll only want to drive it like this in order to get to a place where it can really be opened up.

Switch to the sharper Sport mode for stiffer suspension and quicker gearchanges, and the Aventador is ready to deliver its assault to the senses.

Flick the left paddle twice to select a low gear and even before you've squeezed the accelerator, the revs rise to a purposeful snarl.

A moment's preparation is required before you bury the right pedal, because the response is mighty and instantaneous.

The speedo needle instantly starts racing upwards, the engine note hardens and the road ahead is reeled in without any discernible pause.

The transmission flashes through to the nex t gear bang on the red line and the surge continues once more, all the more remarkable for adding huge chunks of speed regardless of how fast you were going in the first place. That V12 has a glorious song for every last rev from idle to red line, and you'll flick between ratios just to hear its cry.

Even though it is capable of terrifying speed, the standard carbon ceramic brakes haul it back down to sanity with crushing ease time.

And again, even at high speeds, the reassurance of four-wheel drive keeps it remarkably stable and faithful.

That layout also pays dividends through the bends, allowing the driver to point the nose accurately thanks to the superb steering and unleash the power earlier, with all four wheels working hard to catapult it up the road once more.

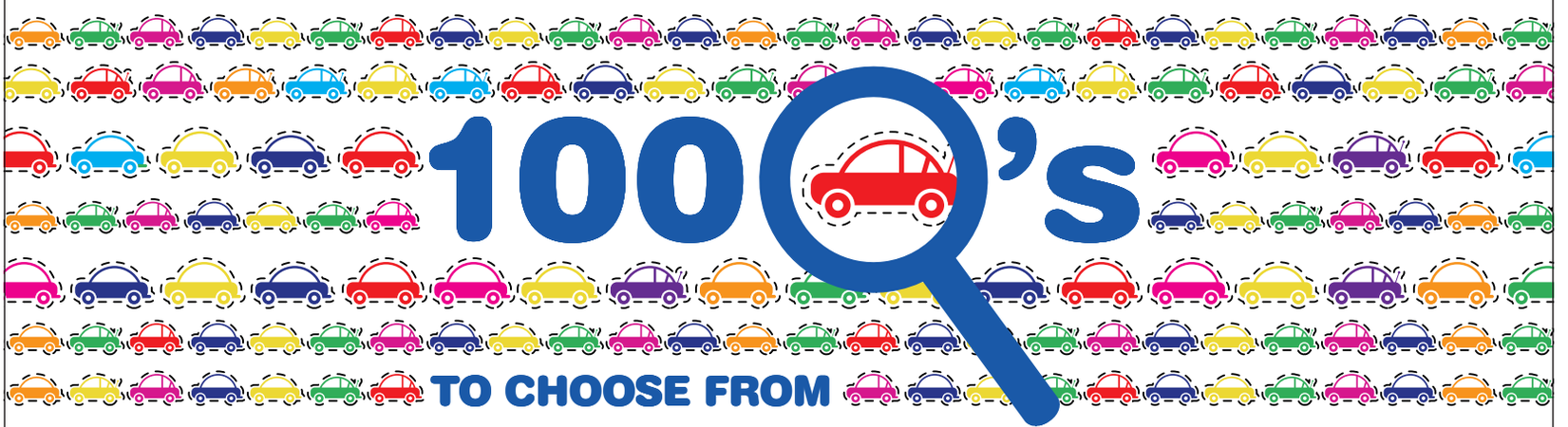
It won't grumble when you try to park it, all the buttons and switches work with reassurance and the air conditioning will keep you as cool as you wish.

Some might see this as a sanitisation of the madman spirit of Lamborghini. But in truth, the Aventador is just as resolutely insane as any previous offering, it just thrills and excites for all the right reasons.

It rightly deserves its place in the history books, as well as representing a glorious future for this legendary marque.

Matt Joy

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A **NEARLY NEW CAR?**



LOCAL DEALERS INCLUDE:

Budgen Motors
Furrows
G Blackhurst & Sons
Greenhous,
Hawkins Motors
Hatfield Jaguar
Ludlow Motors
Mercedes of Shrewsbury
Rybrook
Shrewsbury Audi
Shukers
Telford Motors
T.J. Vickers
William A Lewis

motors.co.uk

Your search ends here.

Join us at www.facebook.com/motors.co.uk Follow us at www.twitter.com/motors.co.uk

In partnership with **Shropshire Star**

It's just the ticket!

WILLIAM A. LEWIS

New Year sale!

NOW ON in Shrewsbury & Telford

Huge choice AND Massive savings!

Here are just some of the great used car bargains!

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 211700 — 06 PLATE SKODA FABIA CLASSIC 1.2
RED 39,500 MILES
Save £500
NOW ONLY £3,495

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 292950 — 11 PLATE RENAULT CLIO BIZU 3DR 1.2 16V
PEARL BLACK, 2,700 MILES
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £6,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 211700 — 60 PLATE NISSAN NOTE ACENTA AUTO
GREY, 6,700 MILES
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £9,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01743 463977 — 10 PLATE TOYOTA YARIS 1.4 D4D 5DR
ISLAND BLUE, 24,635 MILES
Save £500
NOW ONLY £8,995

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 441251 — 57 PLATE VOLVO S40 2.0 DIESEL SE
METALLIC BLUE
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £4,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 292950 — 10 PLATE VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 1.2 16V 5DR
METALLIC SILVER, 10,961 MILES
Save £500
NOW ONLY £6,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 292950 — 11 PLATE RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM 1.6 110 COUPE
MERCURY, 4,300 MILES
Save £1,996
NOW ONLY £10,999

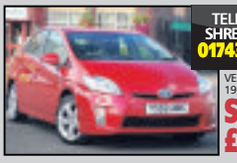
TELEPHONE TELFORD 01743 463977 — 07 PLATE TOYOTA AURIS 1.6 TR 5DR
SILVER STEEL, 52,500 MILES
Save £500
NOW ONLY £4,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 211700 — 59 PLATE NISSAN NOTE 1.4 ACENTA
MANUAL, RED, 19,935 MILES
Save £1,500
NOW ONLY £6,995

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 450030 — 10 PLATE RENAULT GRAND SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1.5DCi 106
RUBY RED, 11,300 MILES
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £11,995

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 441251 — 07 PLATE VOLVO S40 2.0 DIESEL S
METALLIC BLUE
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £5,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 291144 — 10 PLATE TOYOTA AYGO BLACK 3DR
BLACK, 20,378 MILES
Save £500
NOW ONLY £6,995



TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 463977 — 59 PLATE TOYOTA PRIUS T4 1.8 HYBRID
VERMILLION RED, 19,087 MILES
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £15,995

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 441251 — 61 PLATE CHEVROLET SPARK 1.2 LT 5DR
GREEN MET, DELIVERY MILES,
CHOICE OF TWO FROM £6,995
Save £3,705
NOW ONLY £6,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 291144 — 09 PLATE TOYOTA YARIS 1.33 SR 3DR
DECUMA GREY, 45, 290 MILES
Save £500
NOW ONLY £6,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 291144 — 60 PLATE TOYOTA RAV XTR 2.2 D4D
DEEP TITANIUM 9,754 MILES
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £20,995

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 450030 — 09 PLATE RENAULT MEGANE EXPRESSION 1.6VVT
CAPSICUM RED 29,100 MILES
Save £500
NOW ONLY £6,995

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 441251 — 59 PLATE VW POLO 1.2 SE 5 DR
METALLIC BLACK, 18,000 MILES
Save £900
NOW ONLY £7,495

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 211700 — 11 PLATE NISSAN PATHFINDER TEKNA MANUAL
BLACK, 11,000 MILES
Save £3,000
NOW ONLY £23,995

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 450030 — 60 PLATE RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE TT 1.2 TCE 3DR
STONE, 11,025 MILES
Save £1,000
NOW ONLY £6,995

TELEPHONE TELFORD 01952 211700 — 59 PLATE FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCi STYLE PLUS
RED
Save £1,500
NOW ONLY £7,495

TELEPHONE SHREWSBURY 01743 454141 — 11 PLATE NISSAN 370 Z COUPE WITH CONNECT
SILVER, 2,000 MILES
Save £2,000
NOW ONLY £25,995

William A. Lewis

WE ARE OPEN!
21st - 23rd Dec 9am-6pm.
Christmas Eve Until 1pm.
28th – 30th Dec 9am-6pm.
New Years Eve Until 3pm.
Always open at www.williamalewis.co.uk

Download the free QR Reader app and scan here with your smartphone to visit our website!

RENAULT NISSAN VOLVO TOYOTA Shrewsbury **01743 441251**

TOYOTA Telford **01952 291144**

RENAULT NISSAN Telford **01952 211700**

For details and to view our full stocklist visit: **www.williamalewis.co.uk**

SPORT

Second half show enough for Saints

Newtown 1
The New Saints 3

THREE goals in a seven minute spell in the second half saw the Saints keep up the pressure in the Welsh Premier title race after seeing off a plucky Newtown.

The Saints had not lost at Latham Park in 10 seasons, but that record looked in jeopardy when, after a lacklustre first half showing, they found themselves trailing to Luke Boundford's 55th minute header from a corner.

Nick Rushton also hit the post for the Robins but TNS, following the appearance of veteran midfielder Scott Ruscoe, were sparked into action as three goals in seven minutes changed the complexion of the game.

Simon Spender levelled matters on 68 minutes, Tom Roberts then gave TNS the lead before Craig Jones added a third on 74 minutes to seal a dramatic turnaround.

The Boxing Day encounter had a big bearing at the top and bottom of the Welsh Premier and, for the first hour, Newtown made a nonsense of their lowly plight.

Sluggish

They had their sluggish visitors rattled, and could have been ahead at the interval had they not had two strong penalty claims rejected by referee Brian James, the first involving the lively Zac Evans while there was more controversy when Robbie Millington appeared to be halted by Phil Baker in the box.

With the hosts up for the challenge, Millington also had a shot well saved by keeper Paul Harrison while at the other end Barry Hogan saw a 30-yarder tipped away in a rare threat from the visitors.

Newtown went close after the break when Rushton rattled a post minutes with a shot from wide on the right after being played in by Steve Blenkinsop, but their endeavours were finally rewarded when Boundford headed home from an Evans corner.

However, the arrival of midfield subs Ruscoe and Roberts on the hour finally injected some life into TNS, who levelled on 68 minutes when Spender fired home from 12 yards after being set up well by Chris Seargeant.

With Ruscoe pulling the strings, Roberts then fired home an 18-yarder and, two minutes later, an unmarked Craig Jones headed home from Ruscoe's cross to complete the scoring.

Several more chances were created as the Saints ended the game dominant, but it would have been harsh on Bernard McNally's Newtown side who produced a battling performance for the crowd of 375 that should still give them hope of escaping the drop.

Jacob enjoys golden glow with two cross country triumphs

YOUNG gun Jacob Tidridge struck a double gold as Oswestry Olympians took success in their stride in a weekend of cross country action in Shropshire and North Wales.

Ten-year-old Tidridge led the way by striking gold on both days, his first medal of the weekend coming in the fourth and final North Wales League competition held at Wrexham.

He led from the front in the under-11 boys race to win by 13 seconds, and was rewarded with joint first place overall throughout the series.

The Oswestry under-13 girls ran as a team finishing together in their race but, with four to score, were just out of the medals in the team event.

Tidridge again proved his potential the following day by enjoying another golden moment in the climax of the Shropshire Cross Country League played out at Bridgnorth.

With several Oswestry athletes looking to win individual medals,Tidridge ran in his second race in two days and topped his North Wales win by racing to a clear victory in the under-11 boys race to claim his second gold medal of the weekend and take the Shropshire title.

The under-17 boys race was the closest to call with two Olympians vying for the gold medal.

Dominance

On the day Joe Morris showed his dominance and capped his junior cross country career with victory in the race and the league title.

He was closely followed by team-mate Jimmy Kershaw who finished second overall to win the silver medal. The team finished first on the day and third overall.

Meanwhile, three Oswestry athletes were selected to represent North Wales at the Welsh Inter-Regional Cross Country Championships at Builth Wells where they competed against teams from east, west and south Wales.

Abi Bowers was placed 33rd in the under-15 girls race, while Hannah Pryce and Zara Baker were 30th and 32nd in the under-13 girls race where their team finished a creditable third.

There was also a primary schools challenge held on the day and Kate Pugh impressed by winning a silver medal in the Year 5 girls race.

ATHLETICS
by John Bridgwater

All the Olympain results

North Wales Cross Country Junior League

Under-11 boys: Jacob Tidridge 1st

Under-11 girls: Lily Roberts 7th, Kate Pugh 9th, Anna Holbrook 15th

Under-13 girls: Hannah Pryce 7th, Zara Baker 8th, Emily Cann 9th. Team 3rd

Shropshire Cross Country League

Under-11 girls: Lily Roberts 6th, Kate Pugh 14th, Anna Holbrook 19th, Chloe Wilson 34th. Team 5th, overall 5th

Under-11 boys: Jacob Tidridge 1st. Team 7th, overall 5th

Under-13 girls: Hannah Pryce 6th, Zara Baker 9th, Emily Cann 13th, Charlotte Pugh 32nd. Team 4th, overall 5th

Under-13 boys Cameron van Onselen 4th, Charlie Digby 14th, Oliver Pugh 23rd. Team 4th, overall 5th

Under-15 boys James Morris 14th.

Under-17 girls Daisy Tickner 3rd. Under-17 boys Joe Morris 1st, Jimmy Kershaw 2nd. Team 1st, overall 3rd

The Oswestry Olympians girls under-11 team who finished fifth in the Shropshire Cross Country League, from left: Anna Holbrook, Lily Roberts, Chloe Wilson and Kate Pugh

Three cheers - Oswestry's medal winners in the final Shropshire Cross Country League meeting: (from left) Jimmy Kershaw, Jacob Tidridge, Joe Morris.

Joe Morris leads the way in the under-17 race

Kate Pugh (left) put her best forward to win a silver medal in the Year 5 Girls race at Builth Wells.

Oswestry duo Zara Baker and Hannah Pryce representing North Wales in the green vests with orange stripes in action at Builth Wells.

Unbeaten Arddleen clear after latest win

THE Montgomeryshire Air-gun League played their last matches prior to the New Year.

Results: Guilsfield B 199.6 - 183.5 Four Crosses, Castle Caereinion 195.2 - 200.5 Churchstoke, Crew Green 198.4 - 198.4 Llanfair Caereinion , Arddleen 204.9 - 204.0 Guilsfield A.

Possible Scores: Steve Smith (Arddleen), Richard Morgan (Castle Caereinion), Nigel Kelton (Crew Green) all with 35.4, Edward Kelton (Crew Green) – 35.3, Paul Phillips and Dave Smith (both of Guilsfield A) – 35.2, Phil Evans (Guilsfield A) – 35.2.

Team top scorers: Arddleen – Steve Smith (35.4), Castle Caereinion – Richard Morgan (35.4), Churchstoke – Jane Thomas (34.5), Crew Green – Nigel Kelton (35.4), Four Crosses – Ian Smythe and Steve Humphreys both with 31.2, Guilsfield A - Paul Phillips and Dave Smith both with 35.2, Guilsfield B – Aled Evans and Paul Edwards both with 34.3, Llanfair Caereinion – Dai Williams (34.5).

At this point, Arddleen were still undefeated.

Then, a previously cancelled match from week two was shot against Churchstoke.

Ken Llewelyn really held his nerve well against Richard Lewis as final shooters to take the match.

That gave Churchstoke a 205.5-204.9 victory.

Martin Pearce was top scorer for Arddleen with a possible 35.4.

Ken Llewelyn was top scorer for Churchstoke with a possible 35.4 also.

Churchstoke's Alan Baker also had a possible 35.3.

Montgomeryshire & District Air Gun League

	P	W	D	L	AS	Pts
Arddleen	8	7	0		1205.8	14
Churchstoke	7	5	0		2203.5	10
Guilsfield A	8	5	0		3201.4	10
Llanfair Caer	8	4	1		3196.9	9
Guilsfield B	8	3	0		5194.4	6
Castle Caer	8	3	0		5193.8	6
Four Crosses	8	2	0		6193.3	4
Crew Green	7	1	1		5193.7	3

Guilsfield B 199.6, Four Crosses 183.5; Castle Caereinion 195.2, Churchstoke 200.5; Crew Green 198.4, Llanfair Caereinion 198.4; Arddleen 204.9, Guilsfield A 204.0

Net pain strikes for Perrin

ICY weather took its toll on the match scene this week with quite a few matches cancelled due to ice, but spare a thought for Oswestry rod Ray Perrin, who had a 'whole' lot of trouble with his net.

With the icy weather forcing the cancellation of the other events during the week due to frozen pools, the weekend Fur & Feather was the only match to go ahead.

And Ray missed out on a top five place despite catching carp to 5lb together with F1's throughout the match.

When he pulled his keepnet out for the weigh-in he discovered a large hole in the bottom and all his fish had escaped.

Ray Bates (Telford) took home the top prize, his 36-7-0 from Stretton peg 12 being much too good for the rest. Punched bread accounted for carp up to 5lb coming to the net at regular intervals.

Second went to Bob Parrish (Tricast Weston) who had top weight on the Canal, 18-9-0. He was on peg 48 and fished the pole at 12 metres with pellet for a catch of F1's.

Llansantffraid's vital win marred by serious injury

LLANSANTFFRAID Village notched a 3-1 win over struggling visitors Dyffryn Banw to climb away from the basement pack – but the win was overshadowed by a serious injury that forced the clash to be delayed half an hour, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

Home midfielder Sam Williams suffered torn knee ligaments, and was airlifted to hospital as the game was put on hold.

For Ffraid, Chris Aitken, Wayne Austin and Keiran Evans found the net with Rhodri Davies responding for third bottom Banw.

Montgomery are the new leaders after trouncing **Berriew** 7-1 – going above Rhayader Town who were downed 4-1 at Llanidloes Town.

Four Crosses lost ground on the Spar Mid Wales League division two pacesetters after suffering a disappointing 1-0 home loss to local rivals Llanfyllin.

A strike from Cody Smart settled the encounter and, with Knighton Town winning 2-0 against Presteigne, defeat now means that Crosses trail the leaders by five points although they do still have three games in hand.

Abermule were downed 3-0 at home to **Kerry** who took the spoils through a Huw McGrath brace while the scoring was completed by an Andrew Lloyd own goal.

Basement side **Meifod's** home clash with **Llanfair United** in the second division fell victim to a waterlogged pitch, a particular disappointment to the visitors who have played just 11 league matches to date.

Meanwhile, Llanfair's hopes securing the return of striker Ross Frame for the festive period were scuppered.

Although the 19-year-old former Wales schoolboy international transferred to the Cardiff University side where he is studying, his home town club hoped he could return for a month over the Christmas break.

However, that has now been dashed after his current side denied permission of a loan switch.

"UWIC didn't want me playing because we have a quarter-final when I go back," said Frame who has netted 18 goals for the college side.

Montgomery reached the semi-final of the Montgomeryshire Cup after seeing of local rivals Berriew 3-0 with all the goals coming in the first 25 minutes through Elliot Jones (2) and Tony Meredith.

PLACINGS

Stonehouse Brewery Oswestry Dominoes League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Black Lion B	13	10	1	52	26	22
Bell	13	7	3	48	30	17
White Lion	13	7	3	43	35	17
Horseshoe	13	7	4	43	35	16
Black Lion A	13	6	3	42	36	16
Bradford Arms	13	5	3	44	34	15
Royal Oak	13	5	5	38	40	13
Cross Keys	13	5	6	40	38	12
Top White Lion	13	5	6	36	42	12
railway Inn	12	5	7	32	40	10
Plas Yn Dinas A	13	4	7	35	43	10
Penybont Inn	12	3	6	31	41	9
Plas Yn Dinas B	13	3	7	31	47	9
Black Horse	13	0	11	25	53	2

Black Lion B 2, Bradford Arms 4; Plas Yn Dinas A 4, Penybont Inn 2; Horseshoe 4, Cross Keys 2; Plas Yn Dinas B 3, Royal Oak 3; Top White Lion 2, White Lion 4; Black Horse 1, Bell 5; Railway 1, Black Lion A 5.

SPORT

Athletics
Plenty of cross country cheer
Page 39

Happy New Year to our readers and advertisers

OSWESTRY Sports Desk 01952 241473

www.oswestrychronicle.com

Fab fifth for Alison

OSWESTRY Olympian Alison Lavender continued her fine run of form when she set a ladies best time of 25 minutes 10 seconds to take the ladies trophy for the fifth successive year in the annual south Shropshire Boxing Day 5k dash.

The fell race, from the Stiperstones Inn to the Devil's Chair, attracts the top runners from around the country and from further afield, with Lavender one of only three females to dip under 30 minutes.

For more athletics news, including a round-up of the latest junior results from Oswestry Olympians, turn to page 39.

Success stories pay return visit to Welshpool

Front row, from left Max Williams, Alex Morgan, Bran Griffiths, Henry Watkin, Ben Pugh, Jake Mann, Callum Roberts, Llyr Griffiths with Wayne Evans (back centre) and Vaughan Harding (back right).

FORMER Welshpool Juniors Football Club players who have gone on to join Shrewsbury Town came back to train with their old team mates this month as part of the link between the two clubs.

Wayne Evans, Shrewsbury Youth Development Coach, praised the coaching set up at Welshpool as every season players from the club make the grade with the League two title chasers.

This season Max Williams, Ben Pugh and Henry Watkin joined the Under-9 squad, adding to Alex Morgan and Bran Griffiths Under10, Jake Mann Under-11, Llyr Griffiths Under-12 and Calum Roberts Under-13.

"Mid Wales has always produced talented footballers and the link between the two clubs allows the cream of Welshpool's young footballers to progress at the highest level and play regularly against some of the best teams in England," said senior Welshpool coach Vaughan Harding.

"It was great to see the boys again and it shows that working hard in training and listening to the coaches pays off."

SAINTS SIGHTS SET ON BIG NEW YEAR TREBLE

THE New Saints hope to ring in the New Year in style – with a new director of football, a new signing and three points against visiting Newtown.

With the Welsh Premier taking a break during January, the second place Saints will be anxious to start the month by keeping up the pressure on leaders Bangor City, who hold a slender one-point advantage at the top.

Following their 3-1 Boxing Day success at Latham Park, TNS will be confident of completing a festive double over the Robins in Monday's return clash at Park Hall (2.30pm) as they bid to end the first phase of the season on a high.

"The director of football could be in place before the Newtown game, while we're also hoping to have at least one new signing by then," said head coach Carl Darlington.

Problems

"We've had a good first half of the season but we need to move on.

"Newtown is a game we're looking to win, but we won't be treating them lightly as they showed in the first game that they can cause us problems."

With a break in league action in January, TNS hope to fill the time with attractive friendlies against Wigan, Wrexham and Hereford before their Welsh Cup tie with Newport County at the end of the month.

More immediately, the Oswestry men will be gunning for three more points on Monday to maintain their title push, but will be wary that Newtown gave them a real scare in the first game before overcoming a one-goal deficit to seal a 3-1 success.

"We did not get going in the first half and were fortunate to be 0-0 at half time," added Darlington.

"Newtown had the better chances in the first half, and had strong claims for a penalty which I would have had no argument about had it been given.

"Once they scored it seemed to spark us, before then we were waiting for something to happen. We reshuffled the side, took off our top scorer (Greg Draper) which was a brave thing to do, and the substitutions made a big difference.

"Our movement on and off the ball in the last 25 minutes was fantastic and we could have won by more at the end. We know need to take that intensity and purpose into Monday's game right from the start.

"But Newtown showed in the first game they can cause us problems, and we'll not be taking them for granted."

The Saints will select from the same squad on duty last Monday, with defender Steve Evans expected to shake off a knock that forced him off in the game.

Matty Williams and Nicky Ward are certain non-starters, and Jermaine Johnson is suspended.

With their win over Newtown last Monday, the Saints went top of the table – but their stay at the summit was shortlived as Bangor City returned to pole position the next day following their 5-3 win over Prestatyn.

by John Bridgwater

Welsh Premier League

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bangor City	21	15	4	48	28	47
TNS	**21**	**14**	**3**	**47**	**24**	**46**
Llanelli	21	14	4	47	21	45
Neath	19	10	3	37	17	36
Bala Town	20	9	5	30	23	33
Prestatyn Town	20	8	9	32	31	29
Airbus UK	21	6	8	31	35	25
Afan Lido	20	5	8	22	30	22
Port Talbot	20	5	11	22	33	19
Aberystwyth T	21	4	11	28	36	18
Newtown	21	5	15	26	57	13
Carmarthen T	21	3	17	17	50	10

Pool lick wounds after loss

WELSHPOOL Town will be hoping for some seasonal cheer in the Spar Mid Wales League division one when they take on Llansantffraid Village at Maesydre on Saturday.

The Lilywhites, languishing second from bottom in the table, were left licking their wounds as they crashed 10-1 at rivals Waterloo Rovers on Boxing Day to remain deep in the relegation mire.

Pool will now need to regroup after suffering their heaviest loss of the campaign, but they have keeper Gary Foster back from his one match ban.

The Lilywhites had trailed 3-0 at half time to Waterloo but once stand-in keeper John Gough went off through injury, the floodgates opened.

Steve Laws and Ricky Lichfield both bagged hat-tricks, while there was a brace from Will Pritchard and a goal apiece through Chris Proctor and Ian McLeod. Mike Cockram grabbed a consolation with a free kick.

Llansantffraid midfielder Sam Williams looks set to miss the rest of the season after suffering a serious knee ligaments injury in Monday's 3-1 home win against Dyffryn Banw.

Berriew, hammered 7-1 at Montgomery on Boxing Day, bid to bounce back when they host Waterloo (5.30) tomorrow.

Saturday's action see new leaders Monty travel to Dolgellau as they bid to consolidate pole position.

Gaz Bromley led the way with a brace last weekend while Neil Pryce, Mark Probert, Elliot Jones, Jake Parr and Andy Davies also found the net.

In division two there are a couple of derbies, with Llanfair United entertaining Four Crosses while Llanfyllin host basement side Meifod.

Waterloo's Dec Foster and Ian McCloud, try to get the ball away from Welshpool's Mike Cochran during the Boxing Day derby between the sides. *Picture: Peter Flemmich*

Guilsfield put their revival to derby test

GUILSFIELD are gearing up for their New Year Monday derby trip to Llanrhaeadr (2pm) as they bid to maintain their Cymru Alliance revival, ***writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.***

Five straight wins and a draw with high-flying Rhyl have seen the Guils soar to 10th in the table before being frustrated by the weather with their last home game of the year against Cefn Druids being postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

With no action over the Christmas period, their next league game will be an intriguing derby at new boys Llanrhaeadr as they bid to improve on their 1-1 home draw earlier in the campaign.

Gareth Jones is suspended for one game, while Will Thomas features despite an approach from Rhyl.

While Guilsfield are unbeaten in six, Llanrhaeadr have not won in six, a run that has seen four defeats and two draws.

Despite being fancied for the drop following their promotion to the Cymru Alliance, Mario Iaquinta's side have yet to find themselves in the bottom three at any time this season.

The continued to show plenty of spirit with a 1-1 draw against fellow newcomers Conwy United in heavy conditions in their last fixture.

"It was a game we could have won but any point is a good point in this league," said Iaquinta.

"We'll keep chipping away and, with 12 games left, will look forward to the New Year."

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Gap C'nahs Quay	17	12	4	53	17	37
Rhyl	16	11	2	54	10	36
Porthmadog	16	10	2	37	18	34
Buckley Town	16	10	3	32	24	33
Cefn Druids	15	9	5	31	21	28
Caersws	15	10	5	41	32	27
Penrhyncoch	17	8	6	30	27	27
Flint Town Utd	16	8	6	34	25	26
Llandudno	17	7	5	27	23	26
Guilsfield	**17**	**7**	**8**	**27**	**28**	**23**
Conwy United	18	6	8	39	42	22
Ruthin Town	18	4	11	19	42	15
Llanrhaeadr	**18**	**3**	**10**	**29**	**52**	**14**
Penycae	16	4	11	15	45	13
Llangefni Town	17	3	14	23	61	9
Rhos Aelwyd	17	1	12	14	38	7

Boxing Day Result: Flint Town Utd 1 (Shaun Beck), Gap Connahs Quay 2 (Gary O'Toole (p), Rob Jones).

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 77.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2010.

Published by the Oswestry Chronicle, Salop Road, Oswestry and printed by Shropshire Newspapers Ltd., Telford. Registered at the PO as a newspaper. Price when sold 45p.

THE WYNNSTAY COACH HOUSE Fitness & Beauty Suite
FAKE BAKE SPRAY TAN ONLY £15
FILE AND POLISH ON HANDS AND TOES SPECIAL PRICE £20
THE BEAUTY SUITE AT THE WYNNSTAY HOTEL
DECEMBER OFFERS
CUT THROAT RAZOR SHAVE INTRODUCTORY PRICE £17.50 *DE-LUXE £25 *Includes back, neck & shoulder massage
THREADING HAIR REMOVAL EYEBROWS - £6 LIP & CHIN - £11 LIP - £6 FULL FACE £13
T: 01691 668910 E: coachhouse@wynnstayhotel.com www.wynnstayhotel.com Terms and Conditions Apply.